Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-92-083
Wednesday
29 April 1992

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FBIS-NES-92-083 *29 April 1992*

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi described the Israeli municipal elections proposal as being a "propaganda campaign" that lacks "substance and content," Amman TV reported. Nevertheless, the Palestinian delegation has agreed to study the proposal, the television added. Syrian delegation leader Muwaffaq al-'Allaf said the Israeli side had "nothing new" to offer, according to Damascus Radio, while the head of the Lebanese delegation said progress is "impossible" as long as Israel remains in south Lebanon, Beirut radio noted. Meanwhile, the Jordanian team met with the Israeli side on the issue of water rights, Amman TV reported. As for the Israelis, Deputy Minister Binyamin Netanyahu reported that this round of talks marked "the beginning of the narrowing of differences over concrete ideas," Jerusalem radio noted.

Libya

The foreign minister said Libyans are beginning to be affected by UN sanctions, noting that "a number" of children have already died from a shortage of foreign-manufactured vaccines and that "hundreds" died because they could not be flown out of the country for vital medical treatment, MENA reported.

Iraq

Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz said his government will embark on a "new diplomatic campaign" to lift the UN-imposed embargo because Iraq has complied with "60 to 70 percent" of the resolutions, AL-JUMHURIYAH reported.

Afghanistan

The first meeting of the Islamic Jehad Council of Afghanistan was held on 29 April, according to Kabul Radio. The new mojahedin leaders were congratulated by former Vice President 'Abdol Wahid Sorabi, former Prime Minister Fazl Haq Khaleqyar, former Chief Justice Shadan, Chairman of the Wolasi Jerga Khalil Ahmad 'Abawi, and Senate Chairman Mahmud Habibi. Sebghatollah Mojeddedi, head of the Council, also addressed the meeting, saying: "Today, praise be to God, we have reached our pure and holy goal." Meanwhile, further clashes between the Jam'iyat-e Eslami and Hezb-e Eslami factions near the Interior Ministry were reported by AFP.

Pakistan

President Ghulam Ishaq Khan formally recognized the interim mojahedin council, according to Pakistan TV. In his congratulatory message he said that "this historic occasion will mark a most auspicious beginning of a new era of peace and progress in Afghanistan." In a related development, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif announced a comprehensive program to assist Afghanistan in reconstruction, according to Islamabad radio.

India

The defense minister said India plans to use advanced rocket technology from Russia only for "improving communications" and has "no intention" of developing modern weaponry with it, Delhi radio reported.

Sudan

Both factions of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army agreed to participate in peace talks with the government in Abuja, Nigeria, scheduled to begin on 24 May, Omdurman radio reported.

Arab-Israeli Talks

'Ashrawi: Meeting With State Department 'Positive'

LD2804193292 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] A meeting was held at the U.S. State Department yesterday between a number of members of the Palestinian delegation and officials of the State Department. Issues related to the current round of negotiations were discussed during the meeting. The Palestinian side also reviewed the obstacles which Israel is setting before the peace process, the most important of which are the continuation of the settlement process in the occupied territories and the daily violations of human rights.

During the meeting, the Palestinian side affirmed its adherence to the proposal which it submitted to the Israelis during the last round of negotiations and to holding general political elections in the occupied territories.

Dr Hanan 'Ashrawi, the Palestinian delegation's official spokeswoman, described the meeting as positive and said that the U.S. side expressed its expectation that all sides would do their best to achieve substantial progress during this round of negotiations.

Palestinian Delegates Comment on Talks With Israel

'Abd-al-Shafi, 'Ashrawi on Elections

JN2804181992 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Excerpts] The Arab-Israeli peace talks resumed in Washington this evening. [passage omitted]

Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks; and Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation, have not rejected the Israeli proposal on municipal elections. They, however, have explained that this issue has nothing to do with the peace process. Despite this, they have noted that the Israeli proposal will be studied.

[Begin 'Abd-al-Shafi recording, in English with Arabic subtitles] Today, we commented in detail about the Israeli point of view, about the interim self-arrangements that was presented to us in the last round, pointing out its contradiction with the terms of reference, and that as such it could not really be taken as a serious document for negotiations. [end recording]

[Begin 'Ashrawi recording] The truth is that the alleged plan is a propaganda ploy. It is void of any substance. The Israeli side leaked a great deal of information prior to this round of talks with regard to their intention to present a plan for municipal elections. During yesterday's meeting—the first session of negotiations—they presented a paper which was studied. The truth is that this paper contains no plan. It only contains initial ideas. They say that the idea of municipal elections could be positive. There is no plan; there are no details; and there is no studied or detailed program. In our opinion, this is a propaganda campaign that lacks substance and content. We presented our plan on elections for a transitional authority, a national authority, and general elections in accordance with the terms of reference and with clear and frank bases that are in harmony with the principles of the negotiations and Palestinian national rights. [end recording]

'Ashrawi on Human Rights Issue

JN2804193992 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Excerpts] A meeting between Israeli and Palestinian negotiators was held last night. The Israeli delegation made several proposals including one to hold municipal elections in the occupied territories. Palestinian Spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi said the Palestinian delegation wanted to study the Israeli document, but in principle believed the elections should not be merely for municipalities but to choose a Palestinian national legislature to take over authority from Israeli occupation forces.

[Begin recording] [passage omitted] [Washington correspondent Murid Hammad] One other issue that you have discussed with the Israelis is the state of the human rights of the Palestinian people under occupation. Recently, there has been a lot of undercover units assassinating Palestinians. And, recently also there is very a deteriorating situation in the prisons run by the Israeli occupation authorities. How do you feel about that, and what are your comments?

['Ashrawi] This is something we take extremely seriously. The Israelis are victimizing, deliberately targeting a captive population in its prisons. Israel has made the conditions in detention centers intolerable. And, as you know, that Palestinian prisoners in Ansar III in the Negev have already started an open hunger strike, and it has spread to the other prisons. We have raised this issue with the sponsors, with the Americans. We have presented official complaints. We have also presented to the Israelis documents on these conditions as part of our human rights violations update which we do daily. And, we are appealing to the international community, and to international human rights organizations to intervene to protect the Palestinian people. [end recording]

Jordan Delegate Comments on Water Discussions

JN2804190192 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] Regarding the issue of water in the Middle East, which was discussed within the Jordanian-Israeli track, Dr. Mundhir Haddadin, member of the Jordanian delegation, spoke to our correspondent in Washington.

[Begin recording] [Haddadin] In yesterday's meeting, the discussion tackled the Jordanian view which hopes that negotiation efforts will bring us to an agreement on: first, restoring Jordan's rights to the water that Israel seized and used unilaterally; second, rectifying the harm done

to Jordan as a result of the aforementioned dispute; and third, preparing the necessary bases and principles for talking about cooperation when the time comes. Based on these issues, we will look at the possibility of controlling the level of water in the Dead Sea which has decreased because Israel used water from the Jordan River basin, transferring it outside the basin, and benefiting from controlling the level of Dead Sea water in terms of environment and production of hydroelectric power, in the Jordanian view.

[Reporter] What was the reaction of the other side?

[Haddadin] The Israeli delegation agreed that the issue of water is not separate. It is strongly related to the issues of environment, energy, and infrastructure for developing and administering water projects. With regard to this topic on the agenda, the Israeli delegation is ready to discuss it, including water rights. The Israeli delegation also described other related issues such as energy, environment, and infrastructure, as well as possible cooperation in the future. [end recording]

Syrian's al-'Allaf: Israelis Have 'Nothing New'

JN2804205592 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2020 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] Washington—In today's session of the fifth round of peace talks on the Middle East, the Syrian Arab delegation stressed that the concerned parties' acceptance of participation in the peace process on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 224 and 338 and the principle of land for peace constitute the main factors of their commitment, either voluntary or by force, to the implementation of all points and principles of the two resolutions. The aim is to reach a just and comprehensive settlement in the Middle East.

The Syrian delegation stressed that the world community sees in these two resolutions a need for Israel's withdrawal from all Arab territories occupied in the aggression of 1967, and for the recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people. This assertion by our delegation came in response to the distorted explanations of Resolution 242 made by the Israeli side. These distortions were repeated earlier ones made by the Israelis in previous rounds.

After today's session, Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation, said that the Israeli side came with nothing new. All that the delegation presented, he said, were the same distortions of Resolution 242, but in different ways. He added that the Syrian delegation responded once again to some points raised by the Israeli side. A lengthy response to all points, he added, will be made during the remaining sessions. There remains only two sessions because the Israeli delegation reiterated today that it will leave Washington on Thursday.

'Optimistic Climate' Noted at Washington Talks

NC2804182292 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Nuhad al-Hayik dispatch from Washington]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] An optimistic climate prevailed during the first day of the new round of bilateral talks between the Arabs and Israelis despite earlier doubts about the chances of making any progress. The new round of talks had earlier been described as an exercise designed to prove that the peace process was continuing and that the various delegations could go on record as still supporting the process, even if they were not offering anything. Nevertheless, the first day of negotiations brought several surprises that extricated the process from stagnation. It appeared that this round will not be the last one to be held before the Israeli general election. According to the Israelis, it will be followed by another round of talks within a month. The Arabs did not voice any opposition, although they had frequently announced before that there was no point in holding any more negotiations before the Israeli elections. [passage omitted]

Another development was the proposal submitted by the Israeli delegation to the Palestinians to hold municipal elections in the occupied territories. Despite the Palestinians' lack of enthusiasm for this offer because they are seeking much more, they regarded it as indicating some movement toward more basic issues. Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, the Palestinian delegation's spokesperson said that the Israeli offer is much less than what the Palestinians are demanding, but she noted that the Palestinian delegation will study the proposal. She announced that the Palestinian delegation yesterday felt that there was a clear prospect for progress.

'Ashrawi said that the Palestinians wish to hold municipal elections but not before electing a Palestinian National Council that will take over power from the Israeli occupation authorities.

As for the Lebanese-Israeli talks, differences have continued over the Lebanese and Israeli interpretations of peace and UN Security Council Resolution 425. Uri Lubrani, head of the Israeli negotiating team, pointed out that some rapprochement has occurred during the 20 meetings that the Lebanese and Israeli delegations have held so far.

Lebanon's Shammas Rejects Israeli Proposals

NC2804035792 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2115 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] At the end of today's Lebanese-Israeli negotiations in Washington, the Israeli delegation adopted an escalating tone. It issued a statement in Arabic, which was read out by the Israeli delegation spokesman. The statement said that today's discussions focused on what it described as combating terrorism and noted that the Lebanese Government's stance is not in line with a

remark made yesterday by Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, head of the Lebanese delegation, that Lebanon is concerned with stability in the south.

The statement added that the Israeli delegation raised questions about the Lebanese Government's stance on acts that occur in the south. It asserted that clinging to UN Security Council Resolution 425 is futile and is like sowing the wind, which only presages reaping the storm, as the Israeli statement put it.

The Israeli statement also referred to terrorist activities carried out by Hizballah against Israel, the UN Interim Forces in Lebanon, and other Western targets that are friendly to Lebanon, such as Turkey.

The Israeli statement said it believes that Hizballah's deployment alongside the Lebanese Army in Iqlim al-Tuffah poses a danger to the Army.

Lebanese delegation head Ambassador Suhayl Shammas responded to the Israeli statement by saying that all the questions posed by the Israeli delegation remain unimportant as long as Resolution 425 is not implemented.

Shammas affirmed that he explained to the Israelis that what they consider terrorist acts, the Lebanese regard as resistance, which is every Lebanese citizen's right as long as the occupation continues.

Ambassador Shammas rejected the proposals that the Israelis made in connection with the Palestinians and their camps in Lebanon. He explained that implementing these proposals will result in the creation of detention centers for the Palestinians.

Further on Shammas Remarks

NC2904061992 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, head of the Lebanese delegation to the peace talks, throwing off his usual restraint, has stressed progress in the peace talks is impossible as long as Israel remains in southern Lebanon. During Tuesday's meeting, he said, the Israelis once again raised the issue of the anti-Israeli operations in southern Lebanon, while we insisted on the need to implement Security Council Resolution 425, which calls for an unconditional Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

Responding to the surprising Israeli statement, which was seen as a departure from convention, Ambassador Shammas said: The Israelis ignored the customary rule of not disclosing the goings-on of the negotiating room. This is particularly true in this case because their disclosure contained so many contradictions and half-truths.

Shammas emphasized that the Lebanese prefer not to hold negotiations through the media, saying: First, the Israeli statement was prepared before the start of the negotiations; second, the statement contained some subjects raised by the Israelis, but mostly they are not in line with questions raised by Uri Lubrani, head of the Israeli team; third, in an unprecedented event for these talks, Lubrani read from a written script during the session, contrary to his customary routine.

Responding to what the Israeli statement said on its interest in stability in southern Lebanon, Shammas said: The issue of the south is at the top of our priorities; the south's liberation is our uppermost priority. We are here so that Resolution 425 will be implemented. The Israeli stand reflects their aggravation with the Lebanese stand, which is that the resolution needs to be implemented, he added. Ambassador Shammas added: Lubrani raised the question of anti-Israeli activity. I told him what you describe as terrorism is national resistance, and every Lebanese citizen has the right to resist your occupation as long as it continues.

Shammas reiterated that Lebanon's stand is clear and based on two things: first, the implementation of Resolution 425; second, the creation of an atmosphere in which Lebanon will be capable and effective in keeping up its contribution to the peace process.

Israeli Officials Discuss Washington Negotiations

Rubinstein on Content of Talks

TA2904051192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Interview with Elyaqim Rubinstein, head of the Israeli delegation to the talks with the Palestinian-Jordanian delegation by 'Oded Ben-'Ami in Washington on 28 April—recorded]

[Text] [Ben-'Ami] Mr. Rubinstein, how would you sum up the first two days of talks in the current round of negotiations?

[Rubinstein] We held a discussion on proposals and ideas that Israel had already submitted in the previous round. There was a lengthy discussion and debate over these proposals.

[Ben-'Ami] Is this the same document that the Palestinians initially described as unworthy of any attention whatsoever?

[Rubinstein] That is correct. I believe that after they perused the document and following the break in the talks, they came to the conclusion that some things should be clarified with us. That does not mean that they agree to everything, but they do want to clarify matters with us. The other part of the discussions dealt with our proposals, one of which is the proposal for municipal elections reported by the media. This proposal or idea, however, is not meant to be the be-all and end-all.

[Ben-'Ami] Is the municipal elections proposal meant to be a kind of exercise in democracy or some sort of experiment....

[Rubinstein, interrupting] 'Oded, I would not like to speak in terms of exercises or experiments. Right now we have a situation in which we are conducting negotiations on the interim accords. We hope to make progress on this. These interim accords, however, will have to include instructions regarding the manner in which they will be implemented. This will still take time.

[Ben-'Ami] What about the Jordanian track?

[Rubinstein] Just as with the Palestinians, the Israeli and Jordanian teams have presented their core positions and have gone right to the root of the problems. This is also true with regard to the examination of various issues by experts. The latter is a continuation of what was already begun in the last round of talks, but this time it is more in earnest and additional experts are involved. We are mainly dealing with water, energy, and environmental issues. These discussions are fully under way.

[Ben-'Ami] This morning you will convene the forum of the Israeli and the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. Will you propose a date for the next meeting in Rome?

[Rubinstein] Well, among other things, we will naturally propose holding an additional round of talks....

[Ben-'Ami, interrupting] Can you tell us when?

[Rubinstein] No, I cannot, nor do I wish to make any concrete statements. We will propose such a meeting, and we are interested in continuing the process.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr. Rubinstein, I thank you very much.

Shoval—Talks Going 'Well'

TA2904045892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Excerpt] In Washington, the Palestinian delegation at the peace talks is due to respond today to Israel's proposal on holding municipal elections in the territories. Also at the talks today, the Jordanian, Palestinian, and Israeli delegations will discuss the date for the next round of talks, scheduled to be held in Rome. The Syrian and Lebanese delegations are due to respond to documents presented at yesterday's talks by Israel. On this, Connie Lon in Washington:

[Begin recording] [Lon] The peace talks continue to go well, according to Israeli officials. At the same time, Israeli Foreign Minister David Levi met with Secretary Baker. He indicated Israel would not attend the next round of multilateral talks if the Palestinians send representatives from outside the territories to join their delegation. Israeli Ambassador Zalman Shoval explained that would be a backdoor way of inserting their claim on Israel into the peace negotiations:

[Shoval] It is very clear to us—and I think it should be very clear to anybody who knows anything about it—that the insistence of the Palestinians to include outside Palestinians or diaspora Palestinians in this process is in order to get the right of return question back into this whole process through the back door.

[Lon] Israeli Deputy Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said the talks are going very well, and there is progress at all the three delegations, and all three have specific Israeli papers under discussion. He called that a first in the case of the Syrians. The official went on to say:

[NetanyAhu] We think that the talks have reached a stage where we can reduce the gaps or the distances between the sides and move towards some sort of negotiated results around these proposals. This is not yet the culmination of the negotiations, but it is the beginning of the narrowing of differences over concrete ideas and concrete areas. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Levi on Meeting With Baker

TA2804191892 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Report by Washington-based correspondent Ya'ir Stern]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The meeting between Foreign Minister David Levi and Secretary of State James Baker, which lasted over an hour, addressed bilateral issues, peace talks now in progress in Washington, and the multilateral Middle East talks due to start in two weeks.

[Begin recording] [Stern] Did you explain to Mr. Baker that Israel will not participate in multilateral committees which include Palestinian diaspora representatives?

[Levi] Everything that needed explaining was explained in no uncertain terms. Furthermore, he was advised of the significance of moves which defy the basic rules on which we had labored for many months. I believe he will make an effort to alleviate controversies and disagreements as much as possible and to continue promoting the peace process together with us. *[end recording]*

Mr. Levi told us later that the issue of loan guarantees for the absorption of immigrants was not discussed in today's meeting. He stressed, however, that the two countries are making an effort to strengthen the ties between them.

Last night Mr. Levi attended a Turkish community convention in New York, which marked the 500th anniversary of the expulsion of Jews from Spain and the relocation of many of the expelled Jews in Turkey. [passage omitted]

The foreign minister will return to New York tonight. Tomorrow, he will fly to Lisbon to discuss the multilateral talks with the EC troika. From Portugal, he will travel to Nigeria where diplomatic relations between Israel and that African country will be renewed.

[A similar report on Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1900 GMT on 28 April states that "David Levi

explained to Secretary Baker that Israel will not participate in multilateral talks if Palestinians from the diaspora are invited." The report cites Washington-based correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami as saying that "Levi and Baker agreed that the two countries would set up a joint team to probe the question of maintaining Israel's qualitative edge in view of Iran's military buildup. The two ministers further agreed that Israel and the United States will cooperate in assisting the Muslim members of the CIS. This will be done with U.S. funds and partly with Israeli expertise."]

Netanyahu on Proposal to Palestinians

TA2904063892 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Telephone interview with Deputy Minister Binyamin Netanyahu in Washington by Mikha Friedman and Ya'el Dan—live]

[Text] [Friedman] Good day, Mr. Netanyahu.

[Netanyahu] Good day to you.

[Friedman] Although you said yesterday that Israel is doing everything possible to promote the peace process, the proposal we submitted to the Palestinians two days ago on holding partial and experimental municipal elections constitutes a tremendous step backward from another proposal we made in the plan of 14 May 1989, also known as the Shamir plan. That plan spoke of elections to the autonomy council. What happened? Did we suddenly frighten ourselves?

[Netanyahu] There is no contradiction between the Israeli Government plan and the proposal submitted yesterday. Holding more general elections is no simple matter, because this involves completing all the negotiations on the interim accord. This is a very complex matter. We have experience in this matter, and it will definitely take a long time. We proposed, without any connection or linkage, that initial local, municipal elections be held. The two kinds of elections would not be linked. One would not be conditional on the holding of the other. This would be a parallel stage that could definitely change the atmosphere and, in my opinion, facilitate the holding of a more general mode of elections.

[Friedman] But you yourself said that there have already been about 30 election campaigns for various institutions and associations in the territories since the Madrid conference, in a bid to create the new climate you just mentioned. What further tests are necessary?

[Netanyahu] The problem of defining the wider framework, the arguments over questions such as the source of authority, the boundaries of jurisdiction, the functional geographical perimeters of this system—this is the essence of all the discussions on the interim accords. Complex and lengthy debates will undoubtedly be held over this issue. While still debating these issues, we came and proposed, without any linkage or conditioning.... [changes thought] I must tell you that I always ask myself: Why is there such opposition? Who is afraid of these elections? Apparently, there is real opposition and fear of these elections among certain Arab parties. I think the reason is, among other things, that the PLO itself fears losing the title of the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and so forth. First of all, the very title in itself is antidemocratic and totalitarian. What does this mean: the only legitimate representative? Did anyone elect it? Does it represent anyone? What about other representations? I am not talking right now about Israel's position vis-a-vis the PLO. I am talking about the PLO's position with regard to its own standing.

[Friedman] But you are aware of the fact that in the absence of the PLO, organizations such as Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] or representatives of the Palestinian rejectionist groups would be elected to head various local councils in the territories in elections held under Israeli auspices. Does such a development serve Israel's interest?

[Netanyahu] Israel's interest lies in the emergence of an elected democratic leadership. I would say that things could be better for both the Arabs and the Jews and relations between the two peoples would also be improved if two conditions work together in conjunction. The first of these conditions, obviously, is the emergence of a leadership with real support from the local population. This does not exist today. In the negotiations with the various Arab delegations, we are keenly aware of the drawback that they do not really represent their people in the democratic sense of the word. This is especially true of the Palestinian delegation. This manifests itself in internal arguments and in various problems that democratic elections would resolve. In other words, the first thing we would like to see is an elected representation. The second condition deals with the nature of that representation. This very same process could of course elect a representation that is completely insane or that categorically rejects peace. Look, democratic elections in this century, such as the German elections of 1933, have already brought very extreme forces to power. This could also happen.

[Friedman] Mr. Netanyahu, what basis did State Department spokesperson Margaret Tutwiler have for saying that Israel's position against the inclusion of representatives from the Palestinian diaspora in the multilateral peace talks is not final? Does she not understand plain Hebrew, as we like to say?

[Netanyahu] I do not know. I have no idea why she said this, because our position is crystal clear. To the best of my knowledge, it was also clarified to the United States in all meetings and contacts on all levels.

[Friedman] Let us conclude with the issue of Syrian Jewry. The Syrian spokesperson already made an encouraging statement in Washington yesterday, noting that Syria will not be able or, perhaps, will not even seek

to prevent Syrian Jews who emigrate from eventually coming to Israel. Despite all this, reports originating from New York were published in Israel today saying that numerous Jews who presented requests for exit visas were put off to some later date in another 10 days or three weeks. Do you know the real facts from talks you held with the Syrians in Washington?

[Netanyahu] No, I cannot tell you anything about the practical situation yet. I believe you put your finger right on the major problem. You pointed to the most simple test of Syria's intentions. We will see whether it implements its declaration of intentions regarding the exit of Syrian Jews. If the Jews are really allowed to leave following Syria's statements, we will realize that there has really been a change in the Syrian position, at least on this issue.

[Friedman] Thank you, Deputy Minister Netanyahu.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Reportage on 97th Session of Arab League Council

MENA Notes Arrival of Ministers

NC2004113992 [Editorial Report]

[Editorial Report] Cairo MENA in Arabic at 0715 GMT on 28 April carries a report which says: "'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abdullh al-Dali, Yemeni minister of state for foreign affairs, arrived in Cairo this morning on a visit of several days during which he will participate in the Arab League Council's 97th session."

The report adds that 'Ali Muhammad 'Uthman, Sudanese Foreign Ministry first under secretary, also arrived in Cairo to attend the meetings.

At 1038 GMT on the same day, MENA reports: "Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, Saudi minister of state for cabinet affairs, arrived in Cairo to attend the Arab League Council's 97th session."

The report adds: "Ibrahim Muhammad Humaydan, Bahraini minister of transportation and communication, also arrived in Cairo to attend these meetings. In an arrival statement, he said that Arab issues, the Palestinian issue, the Libyan crisis, inter-Arab relations, and the Arab-European dialogue will be discussed at the Arab League meetings."

Decision on Libya Postponed

NC2004215792 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2120 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] The Arab League Council postponed a decision over the crisis between Libya and Western countries to provide an opportunity for further consultations between the members of the Arab seven-member ministerial committee and officials from other Arab countries so that it might be possible for all the participants to formulate a unified Arab stance on this crisis in light of UN Security Council Resolution 748, which imposed an air blockade on Libya.

The Arab League Council discussed several other important issues on the agenda of its 97th session, notably the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Palestinian issue, the occupied Syrian Golan Heights, and occupied southern Lebanon.

[Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic at 2100 GMT reports: "The Arab League Council ended its second closed meeting this evening after discussing the various issues on its agenda. The council is due to resume its meetings at the Arab League headquarters tomorrow. After the second meeting, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said that the council discussed the Libyan-Western crisis. He announced that there are no new ideas on this issue and that the ongoing consultations are focusing on ways of resolving it in the context of international legitimacy. Musa added that the Arab League's seven-member ministerial committee will hold consultations on the sidelines of the Arab League Council's meetings to discuss a peaceful solution to the crisis."]

Musa Notes 'Solidarity' With Libya

NC2004142292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] Cairo, 28 Apr (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that the seven-member Arab committee will hold a meeting in Cairo this evening to discuss the Libyan memorandum on the Lockerbie incident in light of developments in the wake of the application of UN Security Council Resolution 748 imposing an air embargo on Libya.

In a statement following the meeting of the Arab League ministerial council at noon today, Musa said the committee will not discuss specific points, but rather will have a general discussion of the Libyan memorandum.

He added that the committee will report the outcome of its discussion to the ministerial council, which will meet at 1900 today to discuss it.

The foreign minister noted that all the stands in connection with this issue are "good." He added that there is solidarity with Libya, as previously declared in earlier resolutions.

Musa Denies Downgrading Libyan Ties

NC2004224192 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2210 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] Cairo, 28 Apr (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that the Arab League's seven-member ministerial committee that is examining the Libyan-Western crisis held very important discussions today that focused on how to emerge from the predicament resulting from the UN Security Council resolution and how to confront this resolution while staying within the framework of international legitimacy.

In a statement following the Arab League Council's meeting tonight, he said that the committee did not discuss any new ideas about how to resolve this predicament.

Musa denied that any Arab country has decided to downgrade its diplomatic representation with Libya in accordance with Resolution 748.

He pointed out that the committee will complete its consultations tomorrow morning and will prepare and submit a final report on this crisis to the Arab League Council for discussion and approval in tomorrow's session.

Al-Qadhdhafi Seeks League Summit on Extradition

NC2904093892 Paris AFP in English 0857 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] Cairo, April 29 (AFP) - Libyan leader Mu'ammar al- Qadhdhafi has suggested that an emergency Arab summit be held to decide whether he should extradite two Libyan suspects indicted in the West for the Lockerbie bombing, the pro-government weekly AL-MUSAWWAR reported Wednesday.

The report came after Arab League foreign ministers on Tuesday turned down a call by Libya to ignore UN sanctions against it, but pledged to continue working to end the crisis pitting Tripoli against the West.

According to AL-MUSAWWAR, al-Qadhdhafi made the proposal in talks April 22 with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak but Cairo reportedly told the Libyan leader that any decision to extradite the pair should come from Tripoli. The paper said Libya would abide by any Arab League decision to hand over the pair to the United States or Britain, which accuse them of involvement in downing an American airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland. The 1988 attack left 270 people dead and Libya's refusal to turn over the suspects has led to the imposition this month of a UN Security Council air traffic, arms and diplomatic embargo on Tripoli.

Al-Qadhdhafi has also suggested that the pair could be surrendered to France, which has issued international arrest warrants for four other Libyan suspects in connection with the 1989 bombing of a French plane over Niger.

The decision by Arab League foreign ministers rejecting Libya's call to ignore the UN sanctions was reached at a closed-door meeting in Cairo Tuesday. Only Sudan and Iraq have said they would break the air traffic, arms and diplomatic sanctions on Libya which took effect two weeks ago. Other Arab states have reluctantly complied.

Arab League sources denied reports that the organization would convene a special summit to debate the Libyan crisis.

Reportage on Syrian Foreign Minister Statements

Comments on Syrian Jews, Libyan Crisis

NC2804140092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1246 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] Cairo, 28 Apr (MENA)—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al- Shar' has stated that the seven-member committee formed by the Arab League to discuss the Libyan-Western crisis will meet on the sidelines of the Arab League ministerial council meetings, which started at the general secretariat headquarters this afternoon.

In a statement today, the Syrian foreign minister pointed out that the committee's meeting is part of its good offices to find a key to solving the Libyan crisis with the West concerning the U.S. and British request that Libya hand over two Libyans accused of bombing a U.S. aircraft over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988. Faruq al-Shar' said: We still believe that a political solution could take place to end the Libyan-Western crisis. There are Arab resolutions and there are also international resolutions to which we are committed, he added.

To a question about the peace process in the Middle East, Faruq al-Shar' reiterated that Syria is serious about the peace process so that peace can be achieved in the region. He said that the Arab countries support the peace process and they are committed to peace based on justice and the Palestinian people's national rights.

To another question about Syrian Jews, al-Shar' noted that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad met recently with members of the Syrian Jewish League. One of the results of the meeting is that the Syrian Jews are free to travel to any part of the world except Israel and they have a right to return. Al-Shar' explained, however, that this "does not mean recognizing the principle of emigration."

Syria 'Committed' to International Resolutions

NC2804221392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2103 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] Cairo, 28 Apr (MENA)—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al- Shar' has stated that his country is committed to Arab League and international resolutions in connection with the current Libyan-Western crisis.

In a statement this evening, al-Shar' stated that the Arab League Council discussed several principal issues, including the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Palestinian issue, the occupied Syrian Golan Heights, and the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon.

Al-Shar' said that a committee has been asked to formulate draft resolutions on these issues and submit them to the Arab League Council for approval.

Al-Shar' added that the Arab League Council also discussed the Somali civil war.

Al-Shar' left the Arab League meeting before it ended because of other engagements and meetings he had to attend.

Palestinian Affairs

Delegation To Meet Jordanians on Multilaterals

TA2804150592 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 28 Apr 92 pp 1, 11

[Report by Khalid Abu-'Akir]

[Text] Jerusalem—A Palestinian technical delegation comprising members from the Palestinian delegations to the multilateral talks will leave for Amman today with the aim of coordinating and consulting with Jordanian experts about matters to be raised in the multilateral talks committees, in which Palestinians are to participate.

AL-FAJR has learned that the delegation will include technicians and experts in economic, environmental, water, and refugee affairs. The delegation will be comprised of Dr. Jad Ishaq, Dr. Jamal Safi, Muhammad Sa'id, Dr. Marwan Haddad, Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Amarah al-Tamimi, Samir Halilah, Dr. Sa'id Hifa, Dr. 'Adnan Idris, 'Abd-al-Fattah Hamid, and Dr. Salim Tamari.

Faysal al-Husayni, the head of the Palestinian negotiating team and who returned to Jerusalem yesterday, said that the delegation's visit falls within the framework of preparations by the Palestinian technical teams which will participate in the meetings of the multilateral talks committees. The delegation is trying to make the necessary preparations for these talks.

It is expected that al-Husayni will today receive the invitation to participate in the multilateral talks committees which will begin their meetings between 11 and 15 May.

The multilateral talks steering committee, which specifically includes the United States and Russia, had announced its agreement on participation by diaspora Palestinians in two of the five multilateral talks committees—the refugees committee, to be held in Ottawa, and the economic development committee, to be held in Brussels. Palestinian participation in the water committee, to be held in Vienna, and the environmental committee, to be held in Tokyo, will be confined to Palestinians from inside the occupied territories. Apparently there will be no Palestinian participation in the security and disarmament committee, in which the Palestinian side is trying to be represented.

Al-Husayni termed the multilateral talks "an indication of what the future will hold in the event that Israel moves and responds in the multilateral talks." He emphasized that no progress can be made in the multilateral talks as long as there is no progress in the bilateral talks. As for Israel's threat that it will not participate in committees that will include diaspora Palestinians, al-Husayni said: "We advise them not to stay away because this will not be in their interest. If they stay away they will be hurting themselves."

'Abd-Rabbuh—'Monopoly' on Power in PLO

JN2904093492 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 29 Apr 92 p 20

[By Riyad Mansur]

[Excerpts] PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh has launched a vehement attack on the Palestinian voices that are calling for forming a collective leadership for the PLO, describing these voices as "a cry in the wilderness".

Despite his attack, 'Abd-Rabbuh told SAWT AL-SHA'B that there is a monopoly on power in the PLO. He hastened to add, however, that this is because other forces are not doing their duty within the framework of the PLO leadership.

He called for abandoning both the monopoly on power and the neglect of duties, saying that no one can ask for a collective leadership when they object to the PLO political line and do not participate in the activities of the leadership and the Executive Committee. [passage omitted]

The PLO Executive Committee member accused those calling for a suspension of the Palestinian participation in the negotiations of not taking part in the battle because these negotiations opened the door to the Palestinian people to establish their independent state on the soil of their homeland.

'Abd-Rabbuh asserted, moreover, that suspending participation in the negotiations would isolate the PLO and the Palestinian struggle, deepen Arab divisions, cause international pressure on Israel to recede, and save Shamir from his crisis, which is worsening domestically and internationally. [passage omitted]

Editorial on General Versus Municipal Elections

TA2804173892 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 28 Apr 92 p 9

[Editorial: "Municipal Elections and the Fifth Round Talks"]

[Text] The Israeli proposal on holding municipal elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in stages, which Israel intends to present to the Palestinian side during the fifth round of negotiations that began yesterday in Washington, is a proposal that in essence impedes any possible progress in talks over the interim period. Those talks are supposed to lay the foundations and to arrange the transfer of power in the occupied Arab lands from Israel to the Palestinians.

The proposal by Israel to hold municipal elections is in line with the Likud Party's self-rule plan which was

presented by the Israeli negotiating delegation in the fourth round and which was rejected by the Palestinians at that time, because it fails to respond to the minimal Palestinian demands and to the nature of the interim stage which is supposed to end the occupation, to stop settlements, and to uphold the principle of Palestinian sovereignty over land. Because Israel knows in advance that the Palestinians will reject this proposal for the same reasons that made them reject the Israeli self-rule plan, its insistence on presenting this proposal during this round cannot but be interpreted as an onslaught tactic in the negotiating battle now taking place in Washington. In these negotiations Israel is seeking to force the Palestinian negotiator into a defensive position and to portray him as being opposed to "democratic elections."

Israel's aim behind this proposal is not limited to hindering any progress in the talks over the interim stage by emptying the talks of any substance, but it is also trying to score propaganda gains with U.S. and Western public opinion by portraying an image in contrast to its policy which refuses to acknowledge Palestinian rights. This proposal fosters among public opinion, which is very much unaware of the issue of municipal elections in the occupied territories and its political aspects, the impression that Israel is serious about its efforts and intentions to achieve peace with the Palestinians and that it is Israel which is making practical and democratic proposals and is going ahead with launching positive initiatives even in its most delicate political plight.

It is perhaps not a coincidence that with the arrival in Washington of the Palestinian delegation, some parties in the United States known for their support for Israel launched a provocative campaign against the Palestinians and accused them of not being serious and of using the talks with Israel to score media and propaganda gains against it. This campaign, in particular, focuses on the Palestinian interim phase plan which the Palestinian side presented to the Israelis in the previous round and considers it a "propaganda plan" that is inconsistent with the process of Palestinian-Israeli negotiations. This undoubtedly is an obvious propagation of the Israeli proposal to hold municipal elections in the occupied territories, which will turn the fifth round into a media battle.

We believe that the Palestinian delegation has realized the dimensions of this proposal in advance. Consequently, not only will it not suffice to reject the municipal elections concept as perceived and presented by Israel, but it will put forward an alternative proposal, which it is assumed will be dealt with at the negotiations process—that is, general elections in the occupied territories to elect a legislative assembly for the interim phase.

Popular Struggle Front Secretary General 'Deposed'

NC2804203592 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2021 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] According to exclusive information received by Radio Free Lebanon this evening, the Central Committee of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front [PPSF] deposed the Front's secretary general, Dr. Samir Ghawshah, who is now in Tunisia. This was done after a series of meetings which the PPSF held in the Syrian capital under the chairmanship of Khalid 'Abd-al-Majid, who has been appointed the new secretary general.

PPSF military commander Abu-al-Nayif has been appointed deputy secretary general.

A statement issued in the name of the PPSF was distributed in Sidon this evening. The Sidon statement rejected 'Abd-al-Majid's appointment and asserted loyalty to Samir Ghawshah.

Ambassadorial Relations Established With Georgia

JN2804182692 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, has sent a message to Eduard Shevardnadze, president of the State Council in the Republic of Georgia. The message deals with the latest developments on the Palestine question and relations between Palestine and Georgia. Brother Abu-'Ammar's adviser, Abu-Khalid al-Lahham, delivered the message to the Georgian president when the latter received him on Sunday. The Georgian foreign minister attended the meeting.

At the beginning of the meeting President Shevardnadze extended, on behalf of the Georgian people and government, congratulations to brother president Abu-'Ammar on his safety after the airplane accident. He said that president Abu-'Ammar has become an international leader, not just a Palestinian and Arab one, and he extended an invitation to president Abu-'Ammar to pay an official visit to Georgia any time he wishes to.

President Shevardnadze also welcomed the establishment of distinguished relations with the Palestinian people on all diplomatic, economic, and cultural levels. He additionally emphasized the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and expressed great admiration for Palestinian diplomacy and Abu-'Ammar. He said that Georgia will support the struggle of the Palestinian people by all means.

Georgian television broadcast important excerpts of brother Abu-'Ammar's message.

Meanwhile, a protocol-signing ceremony on ambassadorial-level diplomatic relations between Palestine and Georgia was held in the Georgian capital on Sunday. The protocol was signed on the Palestinian side by brother Abu-Khalid al-Lahham, president Abu-'Ammar's adviser for (?Islamic) affairs, and on the Georgian side by Foreign Minister Davidovich [name as heard]. Many Georgian Foreign Ministry officials attended.

Algeria

Ghozali Notes Reasons for Acting Against FIS

LD2704165392 Algiers APS in English 1017 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] Algiers, 27/04/92 (APS)—Sid Ahmed Ghozali, head of government, qualified the attachment of the former team to remain in power as "a form of violence as harmful as the violence of the Molotov cocktails" and stated that the two sides the "former in power and the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] put the people between the devil and the deep sea" compelling the state to resort as a preventive measure to the imprisonment of the FIS militants.

In a declaration to the Spanish paper "EL PAIS", Ghozali who paid a visit to Spain in the frame of a mission of clarification and explanation on the situation in Algeria, recalled as an answer to a question relating to the FIS legalization, that the Algerian Constitution forbade to any party "to form itself on the exclusive basis of religion, race or languages".

"The non legalization of the FIS could have prevented the negative events "that Algeria lived through, pointing out that the real cause of the sad events of January dates back to a long time and recalled "periodical explosions and troubles which affected Algeria with more force in 1983, 1985 and 1988". Referring to the victory of the FIS during the first round of legislative elections, the head of government indicated that the triumph of (this party) is the result of contradictions of the power".

"...I have insisted a lot so as there would be a proportional system but the FLN, which was dominating the People's National Assembly (APN) opposed to it, believing that the uninominal scrutiny with two pounds [as received] would favour it, he said.

Dealing with the imprisonment of the FIS militants, Ghozali justified [word indistinct] preventive measure expressing this decision as being [words indistinct] will to reject the resort to violence of a movement which has a religious cover but which is, at the origin, of a fascist and Nazi character".

This measure is an answer to "the state's obligation to defend the public order, security of citizens and the functioning of institutions, Ghozali concluded. [quotation mark as received]

Consultative Council Sets Up New Commissions

LD2604161392 Algiers APS in English 1007 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] Algiers, 26/04/92 (APS)—The National Consultative Council (CCN) which met yesterday here adopted yesterday its internal regulation and installed five sections the council also set up during this first meeting five commissions (political institutions and public service, economy, social, education and training and finally culture and communication) the council is due to resume its works today in order to elect the president and rapporteurs of sections. The CCN, it is worth recalling, is organized in sections whose rapporteurs compose the bureau of the council which elects a president.

The CCN, officially installed in its functions on last Wednesday by the President of the Higher State Committee (HCE) Mohamed Boudiaf, has not the power to legislate, it was recalled. It is charged of assisting the HCE in the accomplishment of his mission, to examine questions having a legislative character. He has also as a mission to express, after the livery of [words indistinct].

The HCE, advices and recommendations on questions of national interest and importance depending on powers and prerogatives conferred to the HCE and elaborate in this regard any report relating to it.

Workers Union Warns Against Price Liberalization

LD2804162992 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Apr

[Text] In a statement following its emergency meeting the General Union of Algerian Workers [UGTA] warned the government against price liberalization. It called this an inappropriate and politically dangerous measure which may have serious and unexpected repercussions on social peace and stability in the country.

The statement said that whatever the interpretations, justifications, and financial pressures may be, the UGTA will not accept a decision that will drown workers in unbearable wretchedness. On the other hand, the UGTA termed the privatization of state enterprises as constituting a measure heavily laden with results concerning employment and safeguarding Algeria and the independence of its decisionmaking.

FLN Criticizes Seizure of Newspaper Edition

LD2904091592 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] The Political Bureau of the National Liberation Front [FLN] has expressed surprise at the decision to seize the 26 April edition of AL-SHA'B. In a statement to APS, the FLN Political Bureau noted that the seizure could represent another episode in the series of varying harassment and pressure on the FLN.

The FLN Political Bureau expressed the hope that this measure will not mark the beginning of controlling the press and repressing opposing views.

Newspaper Head Given Suspended Sentence

LD2404112592 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Another case on which the Algiers court pronounced a verdict yesterday:

Mr. Chafik Abdi, director of the weekly LE JEUNE INDEPENDENT, was given a six-month suspended sentence following the case against him by the national gendarmerie, who accused him of slander.

Medea Provincial, Municipal Councils Dissolved

LD2404110292 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] Thirty-three municipal people's councils in Medea Province are going to be dissolved in accordance with the executive decree. This was announced by sources close to the province's central office. The dissolution will also affect provincial people's councils, the same sources added.

In Ain Defla, independent reports in the province say that the executive directorates which will replace the municipal people's councils dissolved in the aforementioned province will start operating on 22 April after the elected councillors concerned have been informed and the text of this decision has been displayed in public.

Employment Minister Announces Jobs Program

LD2804161492 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Excerpt] The minister of employment and vocational training said on television that as of 1 May the government will begin implementing a program which provides 160,000 jobs. The statement was made on the occasion of the unemployment seminar currently being held in (Sehaoula). [passage omitted]

Government Recognizes Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia

LD2404213292 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] The official spokesman for the Foreign Ministry announced in a statement that important changes have taken place in Yugoslavia during recent months and that Algeria must take a stand similar to that of the other countries of the international community.

In the interest of consolidating friendship and cooperation links with the peoples of Yugoslavia, Algeria has from today decided to officially recognize Croatia, Slovenia, and Bosnia-Hercegovina, and it announces it readiness to establish diplomatic relations with each of these countries on the basis of friendship, mutual respect, and cooperation.

Italy Grants Aid To Assist Private Sector

LD2704172192 Algiers APS in English 1148 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Algiers, 27/04/92 (APS)—Italy confirmed its support to Projects of the Small and Medium Industries (PMI) in Algeria by the granting of a line of credit of 400 billion of Italian lira and 300 millions of dollars for the financing and the functioning of several projects of investments of the private sector through the small and medium industries, the Algerian Confederation of the Patronate (CAP) indicated.

Egypt

Ministers Approve Five-Year Plan, Budget Bill

NC2904064592 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Excerpts] Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif announced tonight that the Council of Ministers, which met under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi this evening, approved a bill adopting the five-year economic and social development plan for 1992-97. It also approved a bill adopting an economic development plan for fiscal year 1992-93, the first year of the Third Five-Year Plan.

Al-Sharif added that the general framework and strategy of the new five-year plan focus on achieving stability, increasing productivity, raising living standards, combating unemployment, making provisions for a good future for the country's youth, expanding the scope of social care, and extending development projects throughout the homeland. [passage omitted]

The information minister said that the two bills will be referred to the People's Assembly.

Al-Sharif said that the Council of Ministers approved the bill pertaining to the 1992-93 general budget. Total expenditure in the new budget amounts to approximately 62.534 billion Egyptian pounds. Wages total approximately 10 billion Egyptian pounds and current expenses amount to nearly 34 billion Egyptian pounds. Investment expenses are estimated at about 10 billion Egyptian pounds and capital transfers at approximately 8 billion Egyptian pounds. The new budget includes the cost of living allowance for government employees which amounts to 20 percent of the basic salary. It also provides for incorporating 20 percent of the cost of living allowance into the basic salary and a 20-percent increase in pensions. [passage omitted]

During the discussion of the budget plan Dr. 'Atif Sidqi announced that the budget deficit in the new fiscal year will amount to approximately 4.9 percent of the GNP as compared to 24 percent in 1987. He explained that this improvement followed the implementation of the economic reform policy. [passage omitted]

[Cairo MENA in Arabic at 2152 GMT on 28 April reports: "Information Minister al-Sharif said that the third five-year plan aims to carry out investments amounting to about 155 billion Egyptian pounds. He noted that 64.5 billion pounds will be allocated to administration, local government, and the services and economic sectors while 89 billion will be invested in the public business sector and the private sector. Another 1.4 billion will be used as a general reserve. Business investments during 1992-93, the first year of the plan, will amount to 15.5 billion Egyptian pounds with the aim of providing about 435,000 new jobs."]

Court Acquits Author Charged With Blasphemy

NC2904080192 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0622 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Excerpt] Cairo, 29 Apr (MENA)—The State Council's Disciplinary Court has acquitted 'Ala' Hamid, author of the book "A Distance in the Mind of a Man," of blasphemy charges.

In today's issue AL-JUMHURIYAH notes that Counselor Sa'id Barghash, deputy head of the State Council, presided over the court that handed down the ruling, which said that freedom of thought and religion would be meaningless if not associated with the freedom of expressing that thought and of practicing religion in public.

The court called on officials of religious establishments to answer arguments with arguments and ideas with ideas and not to focus primarily on litigation to punish authors. [passage omitted]

Islamists Criticize Nasirite Party's Authorization

NC2804091792 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 25 Apr 92 p 9

[Excerpt] Cairo—AL-SAFIR—The decision by an Egyptian court to permit the formation of the "Nasirite Arab Democratic Party" has stirred debate in the country, for this is the first Nasirite party to be officially approved since the death of President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir.

Senior officials of the ruling National Democratic Party have asserted that the move reflects the democratic attitude of President Husni Mubarak. Leading officials of the "Muslim Brotherhood," however, referred to the move as "blind democracy" and asserted that "the formation of a Nasirite party at this stage reflects a government wish to have the Nasirites fill the political vacuum resulting from the failure of the ruling party." The same officials maintained that "there is no difference between Mubarak and 'Abd-al-Nasir because both are products of the military establishment."

Dumyat, the hometown of the new party's founder, Diya'-al-Din Da'ud, has been the site of celebrations over the party's formation. Da'ud told delegations of well-wishers that his party will be "a nucleus for establishing a Nasirite pan-Arab organization," adding that his relations with Arab Nasirite parties will go beyond the "stage of consultations to coordination and possibly a merger."

The party platform approved by the court declares that the "final goal is to establish the unified Arab state through peaceful means." [passage omitted]

Ambassador to Israel Charged With 'Negligence'

NC2904103492 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 27 Apr 92 p 12

[Text] AL-SHIRA' has learned that last Monday, 20 April, the Egyptian Foreign Ministry sent an urgent message to Egyptian Ambassador in Israel Muhammad Basyuni ordering him to return home quickly to face a trial by a three-member board at the Foreign Ministry. The ambassador is accused of negligence in his diplomatic duties and of endangering the interests of the embassy in Tel Aviv through excessive indulgence, specifically his attendance of beauty contests in Java.

The Egyptian leadership has received information indicating that Basyuni and his wife are spending an inordinate amount of time attending beauty contests and women's parties [hafalat nisa'iyah] in addition to hosting a number of decadent parties and late-night balls at his house and in major hotels in Israel. The ambassador financed these events using embassy funds, which is a violation of recent decisions to cut expenses of diplomatic missions abroad, particularly in Europe. The austerity measure took effect last March. The Egyptian leadership and the Foreign Ministry have therefore decided to take action against the ambassador. He will most likely be transferred to the Foreign Ministry headquarters in Cairo in the next round of diplomatic appointments.

Libya

Al-Bishari Says Medical Shortages Kill 'Hundreds'

NC2704142092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Marsa Matruh, 27 Apr (MENA)—Ibrahim al-Bishari, secretary of the General People's Committee for External Liaison and International Cooperation in the Libyan Jamahiriyah, has said that the Libyan people are beginning to be affected by Security Council Resolution 748.

In a statement before leaving Marsa Matruh for Cairo today, al-Bishari said that hundreds of Libyan citizens have died because it has been impossible for them to be flown out of the country for medical treatment. A number of children also have died at al-Jala' Hospital in Tripoli because the authorities have been unable to import foreign-manufactured vaccines, he added. Libyan officials expect the upcoming agricultural season in the country to be affected as well, saying that Libya depends on aircraft to spray crops with pesticides. He

said that spare parts and the necessary maintenance for these aircraft are not available, which will make the coming agricultural season very difficult.

Al-Bishari said that during the Arab League Council meetings he will ask the Arab brothers not to comply with the Security Council resolution, noting that although the United Nations has passed 49 resolutions against Israel, it has not complied with even one. He added: Even if this resolution were passed under Chapter 7 of the UN Charter, there is a clause in the Charter which says that all Security Council resolutions are binding. There must be one standard for implementing the international body's resolutions.

Al-Bishari noted that Libya is a small country inhabited by peaceful people. It has no regular army, he added, and it cannot therefore pose a threat to international peace and security. This is why it would be unjust to apply Chapter 7 against Libya. He noted that his country is still looking for peaceful negotiations to find an honorable way out for all parties involved in the current crisis.

Al-Bishari said that Libyan authorities have never said that it is unlawful for the accused to stand trial, even if the trial is held in U.S. or Libyan courts. There are, however, some real barriers preventing this, he said, explaining that a Libyan law passed in 1953 does not allow Libyans to be tried in other nations and that no extradition agreement exists between Libya and the countries involved.

Al-Bishari emphasized that Libya is ready to allow the suspects to appear before a commission of inquiry [lajnat tahqiq], even if it is a British or U.S. commission, in a third country. He noted that it is important that the accused be tried by a neutral commission in order to arrive at the truth.

Al-Bishari arrived in Mantrus yesterday evening and met with Matruh Governor Kamal Mansur.

Al-Qadhdhafi Critical of Maghreb Sanctions Stand

PM2804113492 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 26 Apr 92 p 4

[Muhammad 'Ali al-Qulaybi report: "Libyan Leader Expresses Displeasure at Maghreb Stand on Lockerbie Crisis"]

[Text] Tunis—Libyan Leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi allegedly expressed his displeasure with the stand taken by the Arab Maghreb Union [UMA] states on the international sanctions against Libya. AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned from reliable sources that al-Qadhdhafi conveyed his resentment to a number of Tunisian figures including Mohamed Harmel, Tunisian Communist Party general secretary, who attended the nationalist Marxist dialogue conference in Libya last week.

Al-Qadhdhafi strongly criticized the UMA, the founding treaty of which stipulates that "any aggression against any member state is considered to be an act of aggression against the other members."

In his conversation with Harmel, al-Qadhdhafi did not conceal the fact that he had expected the UMA to take a strong stand in solidarity with Libya, but that did not happen.

Al-Qadhdhafi did, however, praise the positions of Syria and Sudan on the sanctions against Libya. According to the same sources, Harmel explained to Col. al-Qadhdhafi that Tunisia cannot take a strong stand in solidarity with Libya except within a collective Arab framework. He emphasized that in the new world order it would be against Tunisia's interests to side fully with Libya, particularly in view of Tunisia's known modest resources.

Political observers expect further coolness and perhaps boycotts in Libya's relations with the UMA states with the continuation of the UMA's commitment to implementing the sanctions against member state Libya.

These observers go so far as to say that the UMA's future depends to a large extent on the outcome of the Lockerbie crisis.

Ministry Instructed To Safeguard People's Security

LD2804163692 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 28 Apr 91

[Text] Proceeding from his instigatory role in affirming and consolidating the authority of the people, who have the sole monopoly over authority, the brother leader of the revolution today had a meeting with the General People's Justice Committee. During the meeting the brother leader of the revolution remarked on the consolidation of the people's security and attention to security in a way that will serve the citizens. He reaffirmed the need to combat negative phenomena and to take all legal measures to ensure that the police serve the people. The brother leader of the revolution emphasized the need to pay attention to the justice sector, in view of its being directly responsible for implementing laws passed by the basic People's Congresses.

The brother leader of the revolution also commented on the agenda which is to be submitted to the basic People's Congresses at their next session concerning laws pertaining to the justice sector in the Great Jamahiriyah.

Opposition Salvation Front Conference Concludes

PM2804112092 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 24 Apr 92 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Libyan Opposition Conference Concludes in Dallas: New Strategy To Step Up Internal Action"]

[Excerpts] Dallas (United States), AL-HAYAH—The Libyan opposition has announced that its new strategy centers on "stepping up action inside Libya and taking all necessary measures to move the battle against Colonel Nu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi into Libya." It also centers on "making all the necessary arrangements to ensure that the Libyan national army is ready to assume any tasks in the near future."

The third conference of the Libyan National Salvation Front (the opposition's main faction) ended in Dallas, in United States, yesterday. It issued a final statement, resolutions, and recommendations.

The final statement said that the conference "enjoyed the distinguished participation of Front members and representatives of a number of Libyan opposition factions, as well as Arab and foreign guests and reporters. The conference elected Dr. Sulayman 'Abdallah speaker of the National Assembly (the legislative authority), Dr. 'Uthman 'Uqayl deputy speaker, and author Ahmad al-Maqni secretary." [passage omitted]

The statement said that the Front's National Assembly announced the following principal aims: "to topple the present regime and to establish a democratic, constitutional alternative." It also emphasized "the need for cohesion among all Libyan opposition factions and the need to utilize their efforts and the energies of their combatants to serve the aims of national struggle."

It appealed to "all opponents of the present oppressive regime in Libya to respond to the call for meetings, cooperation, and coordination in order to thwart any attempt to ignore the national cause and to fragment and weaken the opposition." It emphasized the Front's belief that "the Libyan question has deeper roots and broader dimensions than the crisis over the two aircraft, which is merely an external and superficial aspect of the real crisis represented by the tyranny and terrorism maintained for 23 years."

It expressed the Front's welcome of "signs indicating the desire of the international community, as represented by the United Nations, to put the issue of freedom and human rights at the forefront of its interests and priorities."

With regard to the resolutions and recommendations, Ibrahim Sahd, member of the Front's leadership committee, told AL-HAYAH that they stipulate that contacts be stepped up "with the various fraternal and friendly states in order to strengthen support for the Front's programs and the effectiveness of its struggle."

He said that the Front decided to "write to the international organizations—and especially the United Nations, the Arab League, and the Arab Maghreb Union General Secretariat—to urge them to help the Libyan people to regain their freedom and their right to a free and democratic life." He cited the "reorganization of some of the Front's structures to meet the requirements of the period ahead. In this connection a leadership committee has been formed to lead the Front in the period ahead. This committee will in turn form an executive committee to supervise the course of action."

He said that the resolutions included "improving the security of movements by Front members in Libya in order to expose the regime's schemes against the Front and against oppositionists in general, and pursuing a new information policy based on a rhetoric suited to the present time." [passage omitted]

Furthermore, the assembly decided to activate the role of the permanent bureau, an intermediate body between the assembly and the leadership committee. It comprises the National Assembly speaker, his deputy, and the secretary, in addition to 14 elected assembly members. The task of the permanent bureau, which convenes annually, is to monitor executive operations and to demand accountability for them. [passage omitted]

Morocco

Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia-Hercegovina Recognized

LD2804170792 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1538 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Rabat, 27 Apr MAP—The Kingdom of Morocco decided to recognize the independence of the Republics of Croatia, Slovenia, and Bosnia-Hercegovina. In letters addressed to the foreign ministers of the three republics, the Moroccan Government expressed Morocco's wish to establish diplomatic relations and strengthen bilateral cooperation with them. The Moroccan Government expressed its hope that the people which constituted the former Yugoslavia will find ways and means of promoting the climate of peace and security in the region.

State To Aid UN Peacekeeping Forces in Somalia

LD2904060592 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Excerpt] Morocco will contribute to UN units trying to preserve the security and cease-fire between the warring sides in Somalia at the United Nations' insistence, Abdellatif Filali, minister of state for foreign affairs and cooperation, told the Maghreb Arab press on 28 April.

Filali said that Morocco agreed to the UN request and considers this its contribution to efforts to stabilize peace and security in fraternal Somalia. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Rebel Factions To Hold Talks With Khartoum

EA2804211092 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1315 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] Both wings of the rebel movement have announced their agreement to participate in the peace negotiations scheduled to be held in Nigeria next month.

A representative from John Garang's wing of the rebel movement said in Nairobi that his group had agreed to attend the negotiations.

Radio London [not further identified] said that the agreement of the rebel movement to enter into peace talks came in the wake of the splendid victories won by the Sudanese Armed Forces in the theater of operations. It also added that the other rebel wing had also expressed its readiness to attend the peace talks.

It is worth mentioning that a Nigerian delegation arrived in the country recently to consult the government on commencing talks on 24 May in Abuja, Nigeria with both wings of the rebel movement.

Government Food Barges Arrive Safely at Bor

EA2804194592 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Excerpts] We have just received the following item. [passage omitted] Staff Major General Muhammad 'Abdallah Uwaydah, the director of moral guidance and official spokesman of the armed forces, has stated that the armed forces have tightened their control over all battlefields and areas liberated from the rebel (?grip) and safeguarded all the roads leading to these areas, and that they are following [words indistinct].

On 0700 on 27 April a convoy of river tugs loaded with foodstuffs arrived safely at Bor River port under the guard of the armed forces, who repelled all the desperate attempts of the rebels to stop the barges' passage from Malakal to Bor.

The arrival of these river tugs was due to God's assistance and the armed forces' protection, and it confirms that the entire forces are fulfilling a promise made by the leader of the National Salvation Revolution to open the river channel connecting Malakal, Bor, and Juba. They are ready to maintain the honor of the land and the dignity of the homeland. God is great and victory comes only from God.

Letter Dismisses UN 'Concern' Over Conflict

EA2504171592 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1315 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] Sudan [word indistinct] that the problem of southern Sudan is purely an internal one. It made this clear in a letter to the UN secretary general in reaction to his recent statement in Geneva in which he expressed his concern about the increasing intensity of the armed conflicts in southern Sudan and the Horn of Africa.

The letter emphasized that the rebel movement in the south was behind the exodus of millions of sons of the South whom it compelled to migrate to the North. Meanwhile, different factions of the rebellion were fighting it out among themselves, causing harm to come to scores of thousands of sons of Sudan and subjecting government property deliberate destruction.

The Sudanese letter to the United Nations went on to say that the leaders of the rebel movement were working to obstruct relief operations and government and international aid. They have also been physically liquidating citizens when they refused to join their movement. Moreover, they have been holding over 12,000 children hostage in the camps of rebel leader John Garang.

Furthermore, the letter sent by Sudan to the United Nations claims that some international organizations are fanning the flames of conflict and encouraging the rebel movement by providing material and moral support under the cover of humanitarian work. The letter said there was material evidence proving that one of the international organizations used its aircraft and its other means of transportion to carry weapons and ammunition for the rebels in southern Sudan.

At the same time the international organizations, including the United Nations, remained silent about the atrocities committed by the separatist rebel movement. The letter referred to the atrocities committed by the rebel movement: the forcible arming of children in the areas of armed conflict, the obstruction of the free flow of relief supplies, and the random shelling of civilian areas in the town of Juba.

The letter emphasized that the armed forces' military operations in the South are part of the government's measures to prepare the ground for peace and development in all parts of the country.

Tunisia

Government Recognizes Former SFRY Republics

LD2804181792 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] An authorized source at the Foreign Ministry made the following statement:

The Tunisian Government has decided to recognize the states of Bosnia-Hercegovina, Croatia, and Slovenia in consideration of the events and changes which have taken place in this region in recent months and the historical relations which link Tunisia and all those people. Tunisia hopes that security and stability will occur normally in this region and that peace will prevail among their friendly people under the aegis of mutual respect and fair cooperation in accordance with the UN Charter.

Western Sahara

President Abdelaziz Receives UN Special Envoy

LD2904105492 Algiers APS in Arabic 0930 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Excerpts] Hafid Boujemaa, 29 Apr (APS)—The president of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic yesterday received Yaqub Khan, the UN secretary general's envoy in charge of the referendum in Western Sahara.

Following the meeting, which lasted for two hours, the UN representative emphasized in a statement to the press the determination of the United Nations to "make considerable efforts to settle the situation."

As for his tour of the region, Mr. Khan said: "We are determined to change things and to direct them toward peace in the region within the framework of a just, fair, and unbiased referendum."

Speaking about the impasse in the Western Sahara peace process, he pointed to differences in implementing the peace plan, which is stumbling, particularly over criteria for specifying identity.

Mr. Khan added: "We shall continue making efforts to fill the gaps" in order to make progress in the peace process leading to a peaceful solution of the Western Sahara issue. [passage omitted]

Mr. Khan explained that "Mohamed Abdelaziz, Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia el-Hamra and Rio de Oro] secretary general, has assured me of cooperation to help me settle the situation," and he reaffirmed that he has received the support of the other party, Morocco, which assured him of "cooperation." [passage omitted]

Tariq 'Aziz Says Embargo 'No Longer Justified'

JN2804174892 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 27 Apr 92 pp 1, 2

[By Lahib 'Abd-al-Khaliq in Baghdad]

[Excerpts] At the political session held yesterday evening within the meetings of the Arab Popular Forces Conference in Baghdad, Mr. Tariq 'Aziz, member of the Revolution Command Council and deputy prime minister, said that Iraq will continue to disclose facts and separate security and legal aspects from political aspects. He added that Iraq will engage in special activity to serve this purpose within the framework of a new diplomatic campaign yet to be finalized. He said that the aim is to make the UN Security Council face the fact that Iraq has implemented 60-70 percent of the resolutions imposed on it, and so demand that the unjust blockade be removed. [passage omitted]

Noting the world's conviction that the continuation of the blockade is no longer justified, Mr. 'Aziz revealed U.S. efforts to foil any international attempt to release some of Iraq's frozen assets needed to buy food and medicine for the Iraqi people. He said that the Sanctions Committee hinders any deal to buy even the food and medicine authorized by Resolution 687. He added that despite the nonaligned group's request to expand the list of authorized items to include 15-20 articles for civilian use, the United States is foiling any attempt of this kind. The case of Germany was an example of this, he stated. [passage omitted]

Asked about Iraq's position on the new U.S.-led campaign to use frozen Iraqi assets to finance the operations of the United Nations and other activities, Tariq 'Aziz reviewed the question of Iraqi oil and the inapplicable Resolution 706 and said: Having agreed to hold negotiations with the United Nations to find a way out of the stalemate over Resolution 706, we held talks with the UN delegation in Vienna for the first time. The UN delegation showed understanding and its initial acceptance of many Iraqi proposals to facilitate the entire process. But after his return to New York, the head of the delegation told our UN envoy that he had been summoned by the representatives of the United States, Britain, and France to be told that the concessions made to Iraq were undesirable. He was given a piece of paper setting out the conditions for the distribution of Iraqi oil revenue.

'Aziz added: In the second round the head of the UN delegation was replaced by a new one. The delegation backed down on the position taken by the first delegation. After some negotiations, however, the new delegation showed understanding. But when the delegation returned, the same thing happened to him, and the head of the delegation told our ambassador that the five permanent Security Council members had rejected Iraq's proposals. 'Aziz added: When I visited the Security Council as a member of our political delegation and asked one of the five Security Council members about this, this member told me that there had been no objection by the five members.

'Aziz said that Iraq's insistence on its position pushed the United States into justifying the use of frozen Iraqi assets under the pretext of financing UN activities. He noted that Iraq is currently holding contacts in New York with the Security Council member states on this issue. [passage omitted]

Vice President Opens Humanitarian Conference

JN2804154292 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Excerpts] Under the patronage of leader President Saddam Husayn, an international conference of nongovernmental humanitarian organizations opened today. The three-day conference is organized by the Arab Emergency Health Committee in cooperation with the Iraqi Doctors Union under the slogan Save the Children of Iraq. Deputizing for leader President Saddam Husayn in opening the conference was Taha Muhyi-al-Din Ma'ruf, member of the Revolution Command Council and vice president. [passage omitted]

The representative of leader President Saddam Husayn delivered a speech which began with his excellency the president's greetings and best wishes to the conferees. [passage omitted]

In his speech Taha Muhyi-al-Din Ma'ruf said that the leadership of the party and revolution in Iraq has attached extreme importance to improving the health situation in general and child care in particular. Since the early days when it assumed responsibility, the leadership has laid down integrated plans and programs which have resulted in Iraq's comprehensive progress in the fields of health awareness. The leadership has also paid close attention to child care, given that children constitute the cornerstone of society.

The representative of the leader president said: The Iraqi political leadership's support for child care programs has had an effective role in reducing infant mortality. Generally speaking, it can be said that the masses' increased educational awareness and the increased per capita income have resulted in a reduction in infant mortality.

Taha Muhyi-al-Din Ma'ruf added that the aggressive war launched against Iraq and its toll in terms of heavy economic burdens and costs could not paralyze steps along the path of construction and scientific and technical advancement. He said that the most conspicuous result of this advance has been the reconstruction of what the aggressors have destroyed in record time, which puzzled enemies and friends alike.

National Assembly Delegation Leaves for Libya

JN2904103492 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0840 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Apr (INA)—A National Assembly delegation today left for Libya to attend the Arab Parliamentary Union Council meeting due to start there on Saturday. The meeting is expected to last five days.

In a statement to INA Ghanim 'Aziz Khadduri, the Assembly deputy speaker and head of the delegation, emphasized the Iraqi National Assembly's solidarity with and support for the fraternal Libyan people in their legitimate struggle against the air blockade imposed on them by the United States under the cover of the so-called new world order.

He added that during the meeting the National Assembly delegation will urge Arab parliaments not to abide by UN Security Council Resolution 748, which imposed an air and military blockade on Libya in mid-April.

Sudan Reportedly Paying Iraqi Embassies' Expenses

NC2504183892 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] Since the end of the Gulf War the Sudanese regime has been paying salaries at at least 10 of the tyrant's embassies abroad. Sudanese sources in Cairo noted that following the war to liberate Kuwait the 'Umar al-Bashir regime ordered Sudanese embassies in the Gulf states to allocate 40 percent of the money received from Sudanese expatriates for what he called foreign operations of the revolution to cover the expenses of a number of the ostracized regime's embassies. The expenses include the salaries of employees working in these embassies as well as rent.

The Sudanese sources point out that there is an agreement between 'Umar al-Bashir and the tyrant's regime to cover the expenses of the regime's diplomatic activity abroad as part of Sudan's repayment of its outstanding debts to Saddam. The Sudanese sources described the agreement as unjust to the Sudanese people, large segments of which are now unable to earn a day's living.

Opposition Inflicting 'Grave Losses' in South

NC2804145992 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] The outcast dictator Saddam Husayn has stepped up his bestial attacks on the refugees in the marshlands in celebration of his ill-omened birthday. The outcast dictator usually celebrates his bloody day by killing the sons of our people and intensifying the food blockade in southern and northern Iraq.

An Iraqi opposition source has emphasized that the forces of the outcast dictator resumed their attacks on civilians in the marshlands today. The popular forces checked the attacks carried out by the regime's forces in certain southern areas, however, and inflicted grave losses on them.

The source added that the dictatorial regime continues to terrorize al-'Amarah and to besiege areas near the marshland, particularly al-Kahla' and al-Musharrah.

Opposition Notes Attacks on Regime Figures

NC2604145392 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1317 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] As part of our courageous mujahidins' campaign to purge the land of Iraq of the filth of the criminal 'Aflaqites, the following heroic operations were carried out:

On 28 March the sons of the blessed uprising handed down God's just verdict against Colonel Fadil Shihab Tahir, one of Saddam's intelligence personnel. The criminal was eliminated by a hail of bullets from the mujahidin in front of his home. He formerly ran an assassination ring to liquidate opponents of the reckless tyrant's regime. The operation was carried out in al-Shurtah, in Baghdad.

The valiant city of al-'Amarah was the scene of a daring operation targeting its governor. A mujahidin strike team attacked the home of this criminal from the side of the river with RPG-7's. This daring attack caused panic and confusion among the regime's officials in this governorate; they blocked the roads leading to the governorate for fear of infiltration by another team to enforce the just retribution sentence against this criminal and his aides.

Information Minister Views Ministry's Performance

JN2804113692

[Editorial Report] Baghdad BABIL in Arabic publishes in its 22, 23, and 25 April issues the first, second, and third parts, respectively, of an interview with Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi. The paper says that the interview, which is found on page 3 in each of the issues, is part of "a file" that "it has opened" on the ministry "to frankly and without any hesitation seek clarifications" from the minister "on what is being said in the press and within information circles" and to discuss the performance of the Culture and Information Ministry and its plans for the future. The interview is conducted by acting Chief Editor 'Abbas al-Janabi and 'Abd-al-'Alim al-Banna'.

In the 3,000-word, first part of the interview appearing in the 22 April issue, Hammadi speaks about the ministry's continuous efforts to pinpoint the type of programs preferred by viewers and listeners through periodic surveys. He affirms, nevertheless, that radio and television programs are not solely for "entertainment purposes;" they "are value-oriented programs and not like the U.S. shows, which cater to all tastes." Hammadi addresses in detail the procedures for selecting and training

announcers, reporters, and program presenters, and also describes the technical and artistic potential made available to improve the presentation of various programs and newscasts despite the many limitations dictated by the embargo. He then notes how the ministry encourages writers, singers, and intellectuals in general by arranging competitions and giving them awards and other incentives.

In the 2,000-word, second part of the interview appearing in the 23 April issue, Hammadi continues his discussion of the awards and incentives given by the ministry to writers and intellectuals to encourage them. He then discusses the administrative reforms that he is seeking to implement in all of the ministry's departments and affiliated agencies. In this respect, the paper asks the following question: "We now will speak frankly. Some say that the Culture and Information Ministry, given that the minister used to supervise the security organs, has become an entity that controls or a security department in which employees watch one another. What do you have to say to this?" Hammadi replies: "That talk is totally groundless. If by such remarks one wants to imply that because the minister was the president's secretary and the official in charge of the security organs he brought with him to the Culture and Information Ministry the formulas used by the security organs and that the employees there have begun watching one another as a result, then I would like to affirm that such talk is completely unfounded. On the contrary, we introduced a form of monitoring but it is a monitoring of performance, not monitoring of the type that you mentioned." He explains that this type of monitoring is done to enforce efficiency and to stop absenteeism. He adds that he "is more interested in knowing what takes place in the radio and television sectors than what takes place in other departments such as cinema, theater, and the department of antiquities." He notes: "Yes, I have set up some monitoring in television and radio. This is necessary because it is an important and sensitive department."

Asked whether there will be an "administrative revolution" in the Ministry of Culture and Information, the minister says: "It is not an administrative revolution. The ministry's administrative organization needs to be reviewed. We have diagnosed the following problems: We have a problem in preparing the cadre. Reorganizing and reviewing the basic organizational framework is not difficult." He adds: "The process of rebuilding the leading administrative cadres in the sector of culture and information requires time. Why? Because the situation does not meet the standard required by the leader. Evidence of this is that the leader president has visited us three times. He met with media men and gave his instructions. These instructions, political or otherwise, are being implemented. Some programs are being aired. You have seen 'The File' program, for example. We will develop other political programs." He adds: "Another problem that we have is one of resources. We cannot talk extensively about this problem. We have paper and other printing problems." He adds: "When we have limited resources, we cannot work as we used to in the past."

Asked why the Ministry of Culture and Information provided better media coverage in the era of former Prime Minister Sa'dun Hammadi—when the minister himself used to cover the cabinet meetings—than in the era of Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi, the minister says: "As instructed by the leader president, may God preserve him, the Council of Ministers at the start of its work last year focused its discussions on issues related to the reconstruction campaign. It highlighted what was discussed through the media so as to contribute to enhancing steadfastness.

"When the reconstruction campaign became established, the Council of Ministers began to discuss organizational and economic matters. As you know, some of the Council's decisions are not final. Some take the form of recommendations which require further discussion and examination. Moreover, some recommendations are secret, and publicizing them does not serve the public interest. This is a course followed in most states of the world."

The paper asks the following question: "Another question, Your Excellency the Minister. Some journalists describe the Latif Nusayyif Jasim era as one of controlled and war media. Apart from that, the ministry achieved nothing in other media fields, especially with regard to foreign media. Our media have not influenced other states or their people. On the contrary, the influence of foreign media on our people was clear during the aggression. Nothing changed when you took over as information minister. What is your comment?" Hammadi answers: "Of course it was war media. This is because we had an eight-year war with Iran. Even in the two years that followed 8 August 1988, when there was a relative cease-fire, Zionist and U.S. threats were escalating. Moreover, to date we have not signed a peace treaty with Iran. Practically speaking, although there was a cease-fire and no exchange of bombardment, we were in a war era and preparing to confront fresh aggression. It was indeed an era of war media."

In the third, 1,500-word part of the interview which is published in the 25 April issue, Minister Hammadi speaks about the quality of the output of young writers, the unfounded claims by some that the state does not help them, the problems that they face in publishing their works, and the ministry's preparations to celebrate Saddam Husayn's birthday.

At the end of the third part the paper promises to publish more in future issues.

Editorial Criticizes Arab Support for UN Boycott

JN2704150192 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1205 GMT 27 Apr 92

["Editorial" from the "Radio Newspaper" program, "edited" by Amjad Bishawi and read by Rawhi Ahmad]

[Text] Gentlemen: At the political session held last night during the Arab Popular Forces Conference in Baghdad, Mr. Tariq 'Aziz, member of the Revolution Command Council and deputy prime minister, said that although UN Security Council Resolution 687 contains a clause which explicitly requests the Council to review every 60 days the implementation of the resolutions imposed on Iraq, the embargo and blockade have not been eased commensurate with the degree of implementation.

'Aziz refuted the excuses which the Arab countries might use to justify their commitment to the embargo, especially because Iraq has implemented 60-70 percent of the Security Council resolutions. The Arab countries are supposed to have their say. Any Arab foreign minister with a minimum level of nationalism can say this at the Security Council and announce that he is not observing the embargo because Iraq has implemented this percentage of the resolutions.

There is no longer any justification for the Arabs to pursue their current position toward Iraq. Iraq cannot, especially when it completes its intense diplomatic campaign in this respect, explain the commitment to the embargo by the Arab countries as abiding by the Security Council resolutions. Instead, this is a direct contribution to the imperialist Western scheme against Iraq. The true pan-Arab position is not to abide by U.S. dictates against our sovereignty and existence. International legitimacy, which conceals intentions of aggression and rancor, is being applied only to the Arabs. It is time for the Arabs to get rid of their weakness, retreat, and subservience.

Commentary Scores al-Asad Decision on Syrian Jews

JN2804172092 Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1531 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Dear brothers: The State Department spokeswoman has welcomed the Syrian regime's decision to grant Syrian Jews the right to travel and emigrate. The spokeswoman admitted that this issue was discussed by U.S. politicians at the highest levels and Hafiz al-Asad, the head of the Syrain regime. Bush and Baker demanded this right, and Hafiz al-Asad responded favorably.

The U.S. Administration asked Baker during his most recent shuttle tour of the region to make this demand and to discuss it with the head of the Syrian regime. The U.S. Administration was officially notified of the decision that Damascus made. Baker asked Hafiz al-Asad to release two persons charged with spying for the Zionist entity. As for Hafiz al-Asad's response in this regard, it was favorable.

U.S. State Department spokeswoman Tutwiler confirmed the report of their release. The U.S. Administration, which is attaching great importance to this issue, will continue dialogue with the Syrian regime at the highest levels on the rights of the Jewish community in Syria. When numerous details were divulged about this issue, the Syrian regime was rendered incapable of continuing its efforts to conceal this scandal, which further shows its treasonous role in promoting imperialist-Zionist objectives. In response to a demand made by the White House, this regime did not hesitate to allow Syrian Jews to emigrate to the Zionist entity to join thousands of settlers in our occupied Palestinian territory. Consequently, this will provide the Zionist entity with more fuel for building settlements and displacing our people by confiscating their land and uprooting them.

The United States arranged the whole thing. Shamir recently disclosed the arrangements made in this regard. As for the United States, it defended Syria in this case. Tutwiler said that the Jewish community in Syria cannot emigrate to the Zionist entity because Syrian law forbids such a thing. She added that this community will enjoy the same rights granted to all Syrian citizens. With such statements the United States is attempting to throw dust in the eyes. Even though the U.S. objective might be achieved, the United States, by using such statements, seems to be aiming at cleaning up the Syrian regime's image. It depicted its treasonous act as if it were a very ordinary measure. Washington and the Hafiz al-Asad regime, however, have kept silent on the transit stations that will be used in the operation to transfer Syrian Jews to the Zionist entity. What does Hafiz al-Asad have to say in reaction to the statements made by the U.S. State Department spokeswoman in which she emphasized the phrase the Jewish community while talking about Syrian Jews? This is a phrase that carries connotations that the reference is not to Syrian citizens but rather to a community governed by the circumstances of temporary residence.

The following questions remain to be answered: How will the Syrian regime justify its release of two spies who worked for the Zionist entity in response to a request by Baker? Was this release part of a deal? What about this deal? Furthermore, now that the two spies have been released, can the Syrian regime profess concern for pan-Arab interests, especially because it daily imprisons scores of Syrian, Lebanese, and Palestinian strugglers because they love their nation and strive to vindicate its just, fateful causes?

Commentary Doubts Progress in Regional Peace Talks

JN2804191992 Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1545 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Dear brothers: A senior U.S. official was quoted as saying that U.S. patience over the lack of progress in the bilateral negotiations is wearing thin. News reports said that this position was communicated to the parties taking part in the fifth round of these negotiations, which began in Washington yesterday amid expectations that they will not make any progress. These negotiations will

only continue for a few days. It is the last round of talks in the U.S. capital before the talks move to Rome.

It seems that the Bush administration, which arranged the settlement process and its current formulas, is hunting for progress, even if it were to be fictitious, in the negotiations for election purposes. This is because the U.S. President, whose policies have met with abysmal failure on the domestic front, wants to delude the Americans into believing that he has scored more victories on the international scene in the hope that such a thing would make up for some of his domestic failures. When the U.S. Administration and its officials talk of progress, they do not mean progress in handling substantive issues. Rather, they mean the emergence of formulas that would give the impression that something desirable will come out of the negotiations. In other words, the Arab parties should offer more concessions in favor of the Zionist entity, such as the Syrian regime's decision to grant Syrian Jews the right to travel and emigrate, which was termed by the U.S. State Department spokeswoman as one of the fruits of the peace process.

Consequently, what has become clear to all are the measures and steps demanded by the United States at the urging of the Zionist entity. These measures and steps are meant to be depicted as accomplishments produced by the reconciliation process. As for the talk on proposals and counterproposals on this or that issue, it remains part of a cosmetic endeavor and a futile bet on the course that the political settlement process will take.

If we take into account the statements made by the senior U.S. official, who insisted that specific steps must be taken because U.S. patience is wearing thin, and link these statements to the message reportedly communicated to Arab negotiators by the United States through U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to the effect that a withdrawal from negotiations is impermissible under any circumstances; and if we take into consideration the fact that threatening terms were used, noting that the continuation of the negotiations promotes higher U.S. interests, and that the party that withdraws from the talks will be responsible for the consequences of such a step, if all this is taken into consideration we then can safely say that the United States has presented Arab negotiators with very few options, closed the doors in their faces, and instead provided them with exits that can only promote its interests as well as the interests of its Zionist ally. Consequently, the results meant to be achieved will only promote the objectives of these two parties.

So far the positions of the Arab parties concerned with the peace process and taking part in this process show that these parties have no other option, an option that we believe will not yield any positive results.

Interview With Kurdish Socialist Party Leader

NC2504104492 Istanbul CUMHURIYET in Turkish 18 Apr 92 p 8

["Exclusive" interview with Rasul Mamend, leader of the Socialist Democratic Party of Kurdistan in Iraq, by unidentified CUMHURIYET correspondent in Ankara; date not given]

[Text] [CUMHURIYET] What is the objective of the talks that you will have with [Turkish] President Turgut Ozal, Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel, and National Assembly Speaker Husametting Cindoruk? What do you expect?

[Mamend] First, I wish to convey the gratitude of the Kurdish people to the Turkish Government, which has given significant moral and material aid to the Kurdish people. The Kurdish people in Iraq are going through very difficult times. The Iraqi Administration has imposed an embargo against them. We will inform Turkish officials about this.

[CUMHURIYET] What initiatives do you plan to take to have the embargo lifted?

[Mamend] We will ask the Turkish Government, the United Nations, and the countries that have participated in the multinational force to take initiatives aimed at having the embargo lifted. Additionally, we will ask Turkey to help us implement UN Resolution 688.

There is another matter. We know that the Iraqi Administration has recently massed military units close to Kurdish regions in northern Iraq, particularly near Karkuk. We are afraid that another instance of mass immigration might occur if the Iraqi Administration renews its attacks. This would create a problem for Turkey as well.

[CUMHURIYET] Iraqi [Kurdish] elections will be held on 17 May. They have been postponed twice to date.

[Mamend] We have no experience on matters related to elections, and our resources are very limited. We have also had some internal disagreements. Several Kurdish parties proposed that we follow the majority system. Others proposed that we adopt the system whereby a candidate must receive at least 7 percent of the vote to be elected. In the end we agreed to adopt that system. A 7-percent share of votes will be required to win a seat. On behalf of the Kurdish Front we invite Turkish parliamentarians and journalists to monitor the elections.

[CUMHURIYET] Do you support the establishment of a separate Kurdish state in northern Iraq?

[Mamend] What we want is an administration that will respect the rights of all the Iraqi people, including the Arabs, Kurds, and Turkomans. We do not believe that a separate Kurdish state will be established.

[CUMHURIYET] Some reports say that Kurdish civilian have been killed during Turkey's cross-border operations. Are these reports true?

[Mamend] Yes, they are. Unfortunately, nearly 100 civilians have been killed. The people in Iraqi Kurdistan have always trusted Turkey. Unfortunately, however, the Baghdad administration has used the incidents as propaganda material, saying that "the Turks, who defended the Kurds, are now killing them." The Kurdish Workers Party has also benefited from the incidents.

DPK Welcomes Start of VOA Kurdish Broadcast

JN2804195992 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1730 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Statement issued by the Political Bureau of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan on the inauguration of a Kurdish program by the Voice of America; date and place not given]

[Text] The Democratic Party of Kurdistan [DPK] Political Bureau welcomes the start of a Kurdish radio program by the Voice of America [VOA] which is the first of its kind. The U.S. Congress endorsed the start of the Kurdish broadcast after a series of debates. This step is conducive to a better understanding among peoples. It also shows the start of a new phase in efforts to gain a deeper understanding of the Kurdish question in the Middle East.

For years the Kurdish people have been struggling for the recognition of their cultural identity and have sought to have their language considered a unique national language. We look forward to seeing other world radio stations such as the British Broadcasting Corporation, Radio Monte Carlo, and Deutsche Welle follow suit.

Journalists Union Council Meets, Appoints Officers

JN2904105992 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 26 Apr 92 p 2

[Excerpts] The Iraqi Journalists Union Council has decided to form a commitee under union President 'Udayy Saddam Husayn to review the union's bylaws to provide complete immunity to journalists while carrying out their duties, and to enhance the profession of journalism. At a meeting chaired by 'Udayy Saddam Husayn at a late hour on 24 April, the council devoted special attention to journalists in the governorates. [passage omitted]

The council also distributed tasks among the members of the council who were elected during the 11th session of the Journalists Union. Sa'd al-Bazzaz was appointed first deputy president and Lutfi al-Khayyat as second deputy president. 'Abbas al-Janabi was unanimously elected the union's secretary, and it was decided that Rafid Haddad will be responsible for financial affairs, Nuri al-Zakam for the external relations committee, Zayd al-Hilli for the cultural committee, and Karim 'Abd for the social activities commitee. [passage omitted]

Defense Spokesman Denies U.S. Sanctions Threat

TA2704104992 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 27 Apr 92 p 8

[Report by Alex Fishman]

[Excerpts] If Israel persists in its refusal to cooperate with the congressional committee investigating disorders in the U.S. defense industries, the committee will recommend administration sanctions against the State of Israel in the field of defense procurement. [passage omitted]

About four months ago, Defense Minister Moshe Arens advised the commission that Israel will not cooperate. The reason for the refusal: The U.S. request was leaked to the press before it reached the minister and, at the same time, a statement was issued that the commission would reject any compromise when summoning Israeli witnesses. Since then, there have been no contacts between the commission and the Defense Ministry.

Reacting to the report, the Defense Ministry spokesman has confirmed that the commission did summon Israeli witnesses but denied that Israel has received any threats. [passage omitted]

Russian Vice President Rutskoy Arrives on Visit

Received by Sharon

TA2804195692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy arrived this evening on an official visit. He was met at Ben-Gurion Airport by Minister Ari'el Sharon. Our correspondent Dan Eshel reports that Rutskoy is interested in visiting Israel Aircraft Industries plants to examine the possibilities of cooperation in this sphere.

The Russian visitor expressed the hope that his visit would be instrumental in enhancing the diplomatic relations and improving the economic ties between the two countries.

Shamir Receives Rutskoy 29 Apr

TA2904114792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir today met with Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy in his office. Among other issues, the two men also discussed the peace process and economic ties between Israel and Russia, especially in the field of agriculture.

During their meeting, Mr. Shamir pointed out that Russia joined the peace process in our region after it had stopped supporting one party to the conflict at the expense of the other and had adopted a balanced position. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that following the private conversation between the two men, work teams, which included businessmen Sha'ul Eisenberg and David Kimche, convened.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1000 GMT on 29 April adds that "over breakfast with President Hayim Herzog, Rutskoy praised the work of Israeli experts working in the Soviet Union. He and Herzog shared a concern about the spread of Islamic fundamentalism. During a tour of Ad Vashem, Rutskoy said the museum showed what a terrible tragedy anti-Semitism had brought to the Jewish people. It must never happen again, he said." Speaking to reporters during the tour, "Rutskoy said tough action must be taken against Pamyat and other anti-Semitic elements."]

Time 'Ripe' for Improved Ties

TA2904070592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy is in Israel. Today he will meet with President Herzog and will later go to the Ad Vashem Holocaust memorial. Upon his arrival yesterday evening, he was met by Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon. Our correspondent Dan Eshel was there.

[Begin recording] [Eshel] In his welcoming statement to the Russian vice president, Ari'el Sharon noted the visitor's military record. Rutskoy was a pilot in the Soviet Air Force and was even held captive by the rebels in Afghanistan.

[Sharon] I still remember other times in the Middle East. Today I am happy that Russian military officers can be greeted as friends and, I hope, as future allies.

[Eshel] The main goal of Rutskoy's visit to Israel is the development of economic and agricultural ties between the two countries. With that aim in mind, he brought with him a team from what he described as the new generation of Russian businessmen. Rutskoy added that conditions are ripe for an improvement in relations.

The vice president said that the new immigrants from Russia living in Israel are an important factor in the improvement of these conditions. These immigrants constitute a human bridge between our countries. Rutskoy added that as a former pilot and aeronautical engineer, he is interested in visiting Israel Aircraft Industries. He also expressed the hope that his visit will foster cooperation in the field of high technology.

Today the Russian visitor will be the guest of President Herzog, will meet with the prime minister, and will tour Ad Vashem. [end recording]

Rutskoy Meets President Herzog

TA2904080092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy has said that many mistakes have been made in relations between Israel and Russia. He expressed the hope that

his visit will contribute to closer relations between the two countries. Rutskoy announced that Russian President Boris Yeltsin will visit Israel.

Our correspondent Mira Amsalem reports that Rutskoy had breakfast with President Herzog and the ambassadors of Israel and Russia. He noted the symbolic aspect of the Russian flag flying at the presidential residence in Jerusalem.

Radicals Party Announces 4-Point Election Platform

TA2704120292 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 27 Apr 92 p 9

[Text] Yesterday Shmu'el Flatto-Sharon announced his Radicals party's four-point election platform:

"Supertransfer" [preceding word in English]: Those who do not recognize the state and its flag will be deported at once; all terrorists will be sentenced to death; the Arab parties will be outlawed and no Israeli parties will be allowed to include Arab Knesset members until peace is attained; the employment of Arab workers from the territories and of alien workers will be absolutely prohibited, and the jobs will be offered to new immigrants.

Flatto-Sharon attacked Rehav'am Ze'evi's Moledet party, claiming Ze'evi has been all talk and no action.

Katyushas Fired at 'Security Zone'; No Casualties

TA2904100192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Excerpt] Several katyusha rockets were fired at the security zone in southern Lebanon this morning. There were no casualties and no damage was caused. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and SLA [South Lebanese Army] artillery fired several shells at terrorist targets north of the security zone.

The Voice of the South, the SLA radio station, announced that four katyusha rockets landed near the village of Kawkaba in the eastern sector of the security zone. [passage omitted]

Bi'r Zayt University Reopens; Day Ends 'Quietly'

TA2904113692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] Studies were resumed today at Bi'r Zayt University. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that approximately half of the students attended classes in the Natural Sciences and Engineering Faculties. The university spokesman said that the first day of studies ended quietly. He expressed the opinion that if studies continue without incident over the next two months, the defense establishment will permit the university to renew studies in all faculties.

Minister on Media Policy, Israeli Withdrawal

NC2804132792 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Statement by Minister of State 'Abdallah al-Amin, followed by remarks in response to reporters after his meeting with Prime Minister 'Umar Karami in Beirut on 28 Apr—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Amin, broadcast in progress]... to follow up government affairs and prepare for the cabinet meetings that will be held today, Wednesday, and Thursday. I am sure that during these three meetings, basic and sensitive issues that have been delayed will be raised.

[Correspondent] Can we expect anything regarding the media issue?

[Al-Amin] Certainly. The media issue will be the only item on the cabinet's agenda today. The cabinet is in the process of making a final decision on reorganizing the media.

[Correspondent] Regarding the economic situation, [words indistinct] to check the current deterioration?

[Al-Amin] The cabinet has taken and will continue to take further measures on the basis of the economic experts committee report. It has been clear from the beginning that the effects of these decisions may not surface quickly, but they are a way for finding solutions.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, last night and this morning there were American statements emphasizing the need to implement the al- Ta'if agreement, especially with regard to withdrawals from Lebanon, including the Syrian Army's redeployment in September. How do you regard these statements and what are your comments on them?

[Al-Amin] We hope that these American statements are completely serious, especially with regard to stressing the need for withdrawals. We believe the withdrawal of the Israeli occupation forces is the basic issue and only the United States can play a basic and decisive role in compelling Israel to withdraw from the occupied Lebanese territories. As for the redeployment of the Syrian Arab forces in Lebanon, it is clear that Syria is more committed than all other parties to implementing the al-Ta'if agreement.

Regulations on Media Operations Outlined

NC2904113092 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Statement by Information Minister Albert Mansur following a cabinet meeting in Beirut on 28 April—recorded]

[Text] Within the framework of tackling the economic, financial, and living problems here and the media's role in the rescue plan, the cabinet held an extraordinary session today to study the media issue. The cabinet was briefed on the current situation in the audio and visual media, particularly the chaos prevailing in this sector as a result of the de facto situation in which radios and television stations have been broadcasting without government approval. This situation has never happened in any country, even the most democratic ones.

Out of its desire to emphasize its commitment to the freedom of information enshrined in the national accord document, the Constitution, and the laws, and out of its desire to see that this freedom is exercised within the framework of a multiplicity of views, the freedom of expression, and the objectivity of reporting, the cabinet approved a number of proposals and adopted certain conditions allowing the stations to continue transmitting on the basis of principles and stipulations contained in the current publications law. These principles will be applied to both audio and visual mass media pending the issuance of a new law for reorganizing this sector. The cabinet made the following decisions:

1. The ministerial committee entrusted with studying the plan to reorganize the mass media will be asked to conduct a complete technical and legal study of the legal and illegal radios and television stations. The report should be submitted to the cabinet by 30 May 1992. The committee can enlist the assistance of any experts it wishes.

2. Conditions for temporary transmission until the final report is submitted and the relevant law is issued: In order to allow de facto temporary transmission, as is the case now, and under the penalty of suspension of operation and transmissions by order of the public prosecutor at the Court of Appeals in Beirut, owners of audio and visual mass media institutions must sign an affidavit before the Beirut Appeals Court Public Prosecution within 15 days containing the following:

A. The applicant for a temporary transmission permit must waive any right he might have acquired as a result of working illegally. He will also waive the right to file an appeal of any type whatsoever.

B. This measure shall have no effect on the previous acquired rights by the existing institutions. What is meant by measure here is temporary transmission.

C. Under the penalty of closure, the owner of an institution will not dedicate the institution to:

a) Transmit any news, program, picture, or film which may disturb public security or cause public anxiety; fan sectarian or ethnic passions either directly or indirectly; provoke feelings of discrimination between citizens, sects, creeds, or areas; harm Lebanon's Arab and international relations; criticize, insult, or degrade the heads of fraternal and friendly states, the president of the republic, the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, the prime minister, and the spiritual leaders; undermine public morals and ethics and public order; directly or indirectly attack the basis of national accord, unity of the

country, or the country's sovereignty and independence; and propagandize directly or indirectly for the enemy.

b) Disseminate, transmit, or broadcast any news, program, picture, or film which could constitute one of the publication crimes detailed in the first article of the publications law or which is punishable under the provisions of the penal code.

c) Disseminate, transmit, or broadcast any criticism, insult, defamation, scorn, or lie against an individual or family.

d) Attack individuals or parties or harm them directly or indirectly or attack them outside any objective debate of their views and positions.

e) Disseminate, transmit, or broadcast anything that undermines the integrity of the national currency and the economy.

D. With regard to news and political programs, make a commitment to adhere to objectivity and provide the full truth; treat all views equally and in a balanced manner; respect the intelligence and will of the citizen; and refrain from lecturing and offering guidance, and be content with reporting events and news with total objectivity. In case of a violation, to undertake to transmit the Information Ministry's remarks about the violation in the manner it deems fit, and to give any injured persons the right to respond.

E. The Beirut Court of Appeals public prosecutor will be given the authority to adopt measures against media institutions that violate the above commitment as follows: A warning will be addressed for the first offense; transmission will be suspended for three days for the second offense; and the institution will be closed for the third offense. Security forces will be asked to implement the final measure. The public prosecutor will have at his disposal the necessary executive body composed of elements from all the ministries—information, interior, defense, and justice—provided a decision for the allocation of manpower is issued by the pertinent minister so the public prosecutor can carry out his duty.

Nasrallah Blames Government for Economic Woes

NC2704095292 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Hizballah Secretary General his eminence Hasan Nasrallah has said that the government is responsible for the neglect and deterioration of the economy. He said that the government is playing with the U.S. dollar rate so that the treasury can restore funds the has government spent. Nasrallah added that a power struggle and settling of scores is currently being waged within the government through what they call a democratic power struggle, the result of which is the starvation of the people.

Nasrallah said that those who are tampering with politics and the economy are well known and are in and outside the government. They desire power and the people are the victim of this power struggle. Noting the U.S. role in the crisis, Nasrallah said that the United States is pressuring Lebanon for political gains and to end resistance operations in two ways: The economic crisis and exaggerated reports about a possible Israeli invasion of southern Lebanon.

Nasrallah-Led Hizballah Delegation in Iran

NC2904075492 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] A Hizballah leadership delegation, led by his eminence Secretary General al-Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah, continues its visit to the Islamic Republic. The delegation is scheduled to meet with a number of leading Islamic revolution figures today to discuss Islamic issues, particularly the Lebanese situation.

The delegation left Lebanon a few days ago for Tehran, where its members met with Ahmad Khomeyni, son of the late imam, may his soul be sanctified, and visited the shrine of the holy imam, may God almighty bless him.

Israeli Overflights Continue; Gunboats Off Sidon

NC2804171392 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1702 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] According to our correspondent in al-Nabatiyah, an Israeli MK reconnaissance plane has been overflying the al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah areas since 1640 today. It is being confronted by anti-aircraft fire from air defense emplacements in the hills of al-Nabatiyah.

Israeli warplanes overflew Sidon and the nearby camps and Iqlim al-Tuffah this morning, carrying out mock raids. They met anti- aircraft fire.

Two Israeli combat aircraft overflew the al-'Aqbiyah coastal area this afternoon. Gunboats cruised off the Sidon coast as far south as al-Zahrani.

Mock Raids Over al-Nabatiyah

NC2804201292 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1958 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] According to our correspondent in al-Nabatiyah, Israeli warplanes carried out mock raids over the al-Nabatiyah area between 2100 and 2130 tonight. The planes dropped flares over Jibshit, Haruf, and (?al-Duwayr). The Israeli planes were confronted by anti-aircraft fire from several positions manned by the Lebanese Army.

Hizballah Radio on 'Intense' Overflights

NC2904073892 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] Our security correspondent in Western al-Biqa' has reported that the region was the scene of intense Zionist helicopter overflights, particularly over al-Ahmadiyah and neighboring areas, which illuminated

the evening sky with flares. At 2130 last night, the area illuminated by flares was increased to include al-Jabbur and its environs. In addition, a Zionist force attempted to infiltrate Hill 910 from al-Ahmadiyah, but Islamic Resistance artillery prevented the enemy's plan. At approximately midnight, the enemy hit the village of Yuhmur with 12 artillery shells, but no casualties have been reported. A short while ago, our correspondent reported that three shells hit (al-Rihayat) from al-Ahmadiyah post.

'Tension Reigns' Amid Raids

NC2904100792 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] Tension reigns in a number of areas in the south amid continuous overflights by Israeli warplanes over Sidon, the Palestinian camps, and Iqlim al-Tuffah. The warplanes conduct mock raids over these areas periodically.

AFP has quoted security sources as saying that a South Lebanese Army [SLA] force made up of two troop carriers and approximately 20 personnel advanced north of Hasbayya, in the eastern sector of the border zone, at 0730 this morning. The agency added that the force advanced 2 km into Wadi Mimis in Western al-Biqa', where it strafed the area for one hour before returning to its position.

28 Apr Katyusha Attacks on Border Strip Reported

NC2904114292 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Excerpt] According to reports from the south, last night the resistance fired four Katyusha rockets at the eastern sector of the occupied border strip. Subsequently, Israeli artillery fired about 30 shells at Yuhmur and Qilya. This was accompanied by reconnaissance flights by enemy aircraft over the area and al-Biqa' valley. The Lahd militia radio today admitted that Katyusha rockets had fallen in Kawkabah in the eastern sector. The radio did not report any casualties. [passage omitted]

Officials Comment on Decision on Jewish Travel

Chief Rabbi Hails al-Asad

JN2804155092 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1455 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] Damascus, 28 Apr (SANA)—Rabbi Ibrahim Hamra, chairman of the Religious Council of the Musawi [Jewish] Community in Syria, has praised the wisdom of His Excellency President Hafiz al- Asad. He added that President al-Asad is too famous to be described and outshines any epithets that could be attached to his character.

At a news conference held in Damascus today and attended by a number of Arab and foreign news agency correspondents accredited in Damascus, Rabbi Hamra said: Praise be to God that President al-Asad is among us. We beseech God Almighty to grant him continued good health, to preserve him, and to grant him a long life.

He added: We beseech God Almighty to grant President Hafiz al- Asad success and guide his steps on the right path. We expressed our appreciation for his excellency during the renewal of allegiance when we made shouts and shrills which cannot be described even by a great writer. We expressed our opinion spontaneously, something which springs from our sincere feelings toward our president and homeland, Syria, far from any internal or external pressures. Rabbi Hamra added: The sons of the Musawi community enjoy all the rights granted to all Syrians, including the right to travel, sell and purchase real estate and finalize such transactions with a notary public, and travel abroad. [sentence as heard] He maintained that they also enjoy the freedom of worship, which enables them to perform all of their religious rituals. He indicated that there are 26 synagogues in Syria, all of which are open for worship in total freedom. He noted that the freedom of education and teaching is made available to the Musawi community. Our community's sons, he added, have received their education at and graduated from Syrian schools and universities. He said: We have one doctor for every 75 persons.

Answering a question, the chairman of the Religious Council of the Musawi Community in Syria refuted and rejected the idea of emigration by the sons of the Musawi Community in Syria, which is being circulated by the Western media. He said: We reject this part and parcel. Emigration is of no concern to us. What we are concerned about is the issue of travel just like any other Syrian citizen who does not relinquish his homeland.

He added: Since President Hafiz al-Asad assumed leadership in Syria, he has allowed us to travel abroad just like any other Syrian citizen. I can emphasize that under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, we moved from darkness into light, and from light into further light.

Answering a question on the release of two sons of the Musawi Community, Rabbi Hamra said: During a meeting with him, President Hafiz al-Asad was generous when he issued his instructions in this regard. His excellency's decision has made all of us delighted.

The chairman of the Religious Council of the Musawi Community denied that any of the sons of the Musawi Community is imprisoned, except one detainee who committed an economic violation to which the provisions of economic laws apply. He said that this applies to any Syrian citizen in this country.

Responding to a question, Rabbi Hamra said the sons of the Musawi community do not want to work as employees because by instinct, they prefer to work in trade.

On a question dealing with foreign interference in the community's affairs as the foreign media saying, he said: We are able to solve our problems by ourselves. I tell all those who interfere in our affairs from outside that we are Syrian citizens who enjoy all our rights and that we will not be a target for any foreign media.

On a questions about the nature and validity of passports, Rabbi Hamra said: Our passports are the same as those of any Syrian citizen and are of the same validity and specifications. Any individual of the Musawi community travels and returns as usual.

Answering a question on the peace process which is currently under way, Rabbi Hamra said: We are eager for peace and look forward to it.

At the end of his news conference, he said I seize the opportunity of your presence as media men to salute President Hafiz al-Asad and to express our thanks and appreciation to his excellency for receiving us and for his generosity and broad vision. May God preserve him and give him good health.

Al-Shar' Comments

JN2904061792 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0420 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] Cairo—Asked about the Middle East peace process by journalists and news agencies' correspondents prior to the beginning of the 97th session of the Arab League Council on the level of foreign ministers, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said there is an Arab consensus to support the regional peace process and that this support underlines the need for Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and the Golan Heights in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions, particularly Resolutions 242 and 338.

Regarding Syria's position on the Libyan crisis, al-Shar' stressed that Syria is committed to the Arab League and the Security Council resolutions concerning the Libyan crisis.

Upon arrival in Cairo, al-Shar' answered questions posed by journalists on reports regarding the emigration of Syrian Jews. Al- Shar' said: The matter concerns the

Syrian citizens' right to travel freely, and not emigration. Since the Corrective Movement, led by President Hafiz al-Asad, all Syrian citizens without any exception have, by law, been allowed to travel.

The minister added: During the president's meeting with members of the al-Musawiyah [Jewish] Community Council, the Council members raised the issue of the routine procedures concerning the travel of Syrian citizens belonging to the al-Musawiyah community from Syria to any country except Israel. The president instructed the competent authorities in Syria to facilitate the travel of all citizens regardless of their creed and to remove the existing routine procedures.

The foreign minister stressed that the Syrian citizens belonging to the al-Musawiyah Community enjoy complete equality with all other citizens in Syria and do not wish to emigrate. He added: This fact was acknowledged by a senior Jewish leader in Brooklyn, the United States, in a statement published by the Israeli paper YEDI'OT AHARONOT. That Jewish leader said the majority of Syrian Jews enjoy a prosperous life in Syria and do not wish to emigrate, and that the very few who do will go to the United States and not Israel.

Jews May Travel 'Anywhere Except to Israel'

JN2804125792 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has stated that his country respects Arab as well as international resolutions on the Libyan crisis. He affirmed that the seven-member Arab committee entrusted with addressing the crisis will meet in the wake of the Arab League Council meetings to discuss ways of finding a solution to the Libyan-Western crisis.

On the other hand, al-Shar' affirmed that his country is eager to give its citizens the right to travel to all parts of the world. He said that Syrian Jews have the right to travel anywhere except to Israel.

'Hostile Propaganda' Not Behind al-Asad Gulf Tour

PM2804152692 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 26 Apr 92 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Damascus Denies Any Link Between al-Asad's Tour and Reports of Possible International Pressure On It"]

[Text] Damascus, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Jubran Kuriyah, the Syrian presidential palace's official spokesman, has stressed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that President Hafiz al-Asad did not take with him any plan of any particular nature to the Gulf states that he visited and that what he did convey was Syria's pan-Arab position; its view of the dangers threatening the Arab homeland; the matters which Syria considers urgent; and Syria's call for Arab cooperation to give the Arab position and word some weight in the new regional and international balance of power and to make the Arabs better able to defend their interests and to create a more favorable atmosphere for continuing their struggle in all fields and for restoring the occupied Arab territories and usurped Arab rights.

Kuriyah denied that the visit was made under the influence of hostile propaganda—especially Israel's—claiming that Syria was in a difficult position and was seeking support against the pressures to which it was being subjected or was likely to be subjected in the near future. The visit, he said, was a normal one in return for those made to Syria by a number of heads of state, and especially the amir of Kuwait, the amir of Qatar, and United Arab Emirates President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan.

Commentary: 'No Peace' During Occupation

JN2804152392 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: At a time when the fifth round of the peace negotiating process is beginning in Washington, President Hafiz al- Asad's assertion that peace and occupation of territory cannot coexist has left its mark on the events in the region. The Israeli rulers, headed by Yitzhaq Shamir, have made hundreds of statements in the last month about insisting on their continued occupation of the Arab territories, refusing to withdraw from them under any circumstances, and pressing ahead with their Greater Israel's plan. Furthermore, Yosi Ben-Aharon announced at the talks with the Syrian delegation that the Israeli delegation will propose concluding a peace agreement without Israel binding itself to withdraw from the Golan.

Therefore, President al-Asad's assertion puts things right and reminds us all that the Arabs have come to Washington to realize a just peace; a peace that restores their lands and rights, and that what is demanded is the implementation of the Security Council resolutions, particularly Resolutions 242 and 338 which reject the usurpation of territories by force and ask Israel to withdraw its forces from all occupied Arab territories.

It is clear that the noose is being tightened on Israeli rulers after the previous four rounds. Their practices on the ground have revealed their hostility to peace and their insistence on continuing settlement construction and expansion, and their denial of the Palestinian people's rights to their land and homeland.

The Israeli negotiating delegation is trying to present some ideas that provide nothing new, but they contain poison in the fat, as the proverb says. The Israeli delegation talks about holding municipal elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, excluding Jerusalem. This talk is an exposed maneuver to circumvent the issue of

self-determination because Palestinian self-determination cannot be implemented under occupation and the heavy presence of the occupiers. An international panel should supervise real elections that reflect the Palestinian people's will and their aspirations, and translate them into a government that takes control of all occupied Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem.

The Israeli delegation has not presented anything new concerning the Golan. Furthermore, it tries to escape Security Council 242, deeming it nonbinding although this resolution is one of the most binding resolutions of the Security Council. The resolution clearly rejects the occupation of another's land by force and asks Israel to withdraw all its forces from the territories it usurped in 1967.

In fact, he who wants peace does not resort to such maneuvers, wasting precious time and mocking the intelligence of human beings as Israel's rulers are doing. He who wants peace does not confiscate Arab territories in such an extensive manner, set up all these settlements, expel the Arabs from their villages and farms, or demolish their houses.

The road to peace is clear, and there is a genuine interest in peace for whole Middle East as rightly declared by President Hafiz al-Asad. The Arabs have furnished the evidence to the whole world that they are sincerely seeking peace and that they have a certain desire to realize a just and comprehensive settlement that uproots wars and tensions in the region, and brings about a new age of calmness and stability. However, peace is impossible without justice, and justice necessitates liberating the Palestinian people from repression and terrorism, and enabling them to determine their future. Justice also necessitates giving back the occupied territories to their owners and returning those evacuated from these territories to live there freely. Hence, there is no peace while the occupation continues. Peace is possible when Israel withdraws from the Arab territories. This is a fact that has become self- evident and cannot be undermined by the acrobatics of the Israeli rulers who are currently propagating, for purely electoral purposes, that peace is possible with the continuation of the occupation.

Khaddam Confers With Cypriot Minister 28 Apr

JN2804150792 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] At 1030 today, Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received Andreas Gavrilidhis, Cypriot minister of agriculture and natural resources. The meeting was attended by Muhammad Ghabbash, minister of agriculture and agrarian reform and the Cypriot ambassador in Damascus.

Talks at the meeting dealt with the situation in the region, latest developments of the Cypriot problem, and bilateral relations.

Afghanistan

Addresses to First Islamic Jehad Council Meeting

Mojaddedi—'We Have Succeeded'

LD2804202692 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1615 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Speech by Professor Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, head of the Islamic Jehad Council, at the first meeting of the Islamic Jehad Council of Afghanistan in Kabul on 28 April—recorded; passages in boldface in Pashto]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [words indistinct] that after a period of 14 years, we (?return) once again to the capital of our dear country, Kabul. [crowd shouts: of "God is great"] Once again we have succeeded in the capital of our dear country, Afghanistan, in Kabul, together with our esteemed mojahedi brothers, to (?transform) the previous government into a genuinely Islamic government. Our rejoicing is truly justified as we once again can see our country up close and we have rejoined the [word indistinct] of our country like a child deprived of its kind mother for a long period, and after many years returns to reunite with its kind-hearted mother. Such a sentiment [words indistinct].

On one hand you are very happy and jubilant that you have returned to your country and today, God willing, we will establish in this flourishing country a genuinely Islamic government. [passage omitted] [crowd shouts: "God is great"]

On the other hand, there is the destruction, the orphans, the widows, the maimed, and the wounded in the country. We realize this with (?sorrow) and share in it with our brothers and sisters with hearts filled with grief, pain, and sorrow.

Within the past 13 to 14 years, I believe that this Muslim nation, the courageous and brave nation of Afghanistan, has experienced all kinds of suffering and has made sacrifices to the [word indistinct] of the prophet which has no comparison in the history of mankind. [passage omitted]

When we [words indistinct] of the martyrs [words indistinct] and express on behalf of myself, my colleagues, and compatriots our condolences and (?sympathy) to the families of those [word indistinct] martyrs.

Today, after great sacrifices and (?loss) life and property and [words indistinct] we succeeded. [passage omitted] Almighty God, [words indistinct] received this small action of ours to his [words indistinct]. Not only did the [word indistinct] sacrifices of the courageous people of Afghanistan result in the liberation of this Muslim nation; they will bring about another change in the free and [word indistinct] world which has not been possible for centuries.

We who [words indistinct] over the course of 13 to 14 years with the sacrifices of the jehad. This was not an action we wanted to carry out but a (?duty) for us and for everyone, the Muslim nation of our Afghanistan [words indistinct] this war and this bloodshed. [Word indistinct] war was (?imposed) on us, as everyone knows. Yes, it was bitter, and we were prepared for the sacrifices and difficulties. [Words indistinct] to reach the pure and holy goal, everything a person values. Today, praise be to God, we have reached our pure and holy goal.

Dear brothers and sisters, the sacrifices you have made over the past few years and shown to the world have defeated the Soviet Union. Communism has been defeated in the world. The world was astonished when you started your jehad; how could this poor country resist against a superpower? But we believed that the real superpower was God. [crowd shouts: "God is great"]

We hoped that our happiness would be several times greater as power was transferred to us by the previous regime [crowd shouts: "God is great"], but regrettably, there was sabotage and chaos caused by some brothers, maybe mistakenly, against the people of Kabul. This has saddened us. We did not expect our brothers (?to act in this manner). We ask our brothers, those who have carried out these aggressions, to join quickly with their brothers and to alleviate the misery which the people have suffered over the years, not to inflict further misery and pain on them.

We are declaring an amnesty to all those who surrender to the Islamic state so that they will repent, return to God, and repent for their previous deeds [words indistinct]. [crowd shouts: "God is great"]

It is not time for us to shed blood, inflict hardship on the people, or assault their property and dignity. Islam has never allowed this. It is time for us to make peace with one another and to establish security if we can. We ask all brothers and sisters and all the Muslim nation of Afghanistan to wipe away the tears of the orphans and widows as much as you can. Rub ointment on the injured hearts. Look after the widows. Help the unshod and the poor. Unite among yourselves. Throw away the racial, regional, tribal, and linguistic differences; they do not exist in Islam nor do they help with the life hereafter.

The history of Afghanistan as seen by the world has shown that the tribes of Afghanistan—Pashton, Persian, Tajik, Uzbek, Turkmen, Ghelji, and Durani, Sunni and Shi'a—have lived in fraternity and with love for each other. For years these differences have not caused discrimination in this country. You are, praise be to God, Muslims who know about Islam. There is [word indistinct] Mohammad, peace be upon him, has made remarks that we should treat all people equally and that the best of people before God are those who fear God more. [passage omitted] The messenger of God, peace upon him, says: People are equal as the teeth of a comb. There is no difference between an Arab and a non-Arab except

through peity. The closest of you to God is the most pious of you. [preceding three sentences in Arabic]

Dear brothers and sisters, now it is time for all of us to work for complete unity and to make great efforts so we can reconstruct this [word indistinct] country with the help of God. I cordially thank those brothers who worked in the previous regime—some of them are sitting here with us—who made efforts to maintain security in Kabul.

I vigorously ask those brothers who have launched aggressions to lay down their weapons immediately and to return to the places they came from. By doing so they will be rubbing a good ointment on the wounds of the people. If they continue their aggression [word indistinct] and this Islamic state will make a decision on them in line with Islamic shari'ah.

I ask all employees of the government to carry on with their duties. They should not stay at their homes. They are obliged to this country and they should not refrain from serving it. [crowd shouts: "God is great"]

Over the past 13 years of our jehad the free world gave us much help. At the top are the Government and nation of Pakistan; the nation and Government of Saudi Arabia; the nation and Government of Iran; and other Arab nations and Western countries. The United Nations [words indistinct] approved our cause with a large majority and was seriously asking the Soviet Union to withdraw from Afghanistan. I cordially thank all the countries and institutions which have rendered material and moral aid. I ask God to help us to continue our good relations with the free world and all Islamic countries in line with Islamic shari'ah.

I am asking all international institutions and the countries of the free world to continue their humanitarian and material assistance to Afghanistan, where everything has been ruined as a result of the invasion—trade, agriculture, housing, villages, and towns have all been destroyed—so we can reconstruct our country. I thank all of you for listening to me so patiently.

Former Vice President Speaks

LD2804222392 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1615 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Speech by former Vice President 'Abdol Wahid Sorabi at the first meeting of the Islamic Jihad Council of Afghanistan in Kabul on 28 April—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate! [passage omitted] Esteemed [word indistinct] his holiness Mojaddedi! I sincerely welcome you and all your (?present) delegation and all my honorable mojahedin brothers to our dear country, to the capital of Afghanistan and the city of Kabul. I congratulate you, all the fighting, mojahedin brothers, and the nation of Afghanistan on the establishment of the Islamic government of Afghanistan. We hope that with the support of our mojahedin brothers and the establishment of the government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, a stable peace will be established in our country.

Our people over the past 14 years have made great sacrifices and have lived with a lot of difficulties and suffering. We are [word indistinct] that with the cooperation of the all the mojahedin brothers and the proud Afghan nation we will succeed in achieving genuine peace, tranquillity, and eternal security. All of us should make efforts toward the construction of our country, in the [word indistinct] of our dear Afghanistan, everyone in brotherhood, in an atmosphere of friendship, (?strength), sincerity, (?unity), and national unity.

With the people of our dear nation in the jehad fronts achieving honorable and (?eternal) victory, (?we) should in brotherhood, within the framework of an Islamic (?government), and in unity work for the construction of their dear country. On behalf of the workers of the state of Afghanistan, I sincerely promise you that we—with all our ability, strength, energy, knowledge, and intelligence—will stand beside you in the construction of our country and in the establishment of peace, the government, and the unity of all the Afghan brothers, all the people of our dear country.

We will assist you with all our ability and strength. This we sincerely promise. Once again, we pray to God that our dear country (?will live) in an atmosphere of peace and lasting security, move toward great progress and development, and bring all the people of Afghanistan together in unity, brotherhood, and equality. [passage omitted] We are honored that we are today celebrating the peaceful transfer of power of the government of the Republic of Afghanistan to the Islamic government of Afghanistan, to our mojahedin led by honorable Mojaddedi.

Former Prime Minister's Congratulations

LD2804224192 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1615 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Speech by former Prime Minister Fazl Haq Khaleqyar at the first meeting of the Islamic Jihad Council of Afghanistan in Kabul on 28 April—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate and merciful. Great teacher, esteemed scholar, Your Excellency Hazrat Mojaddedi, president of the state of mojahedin.

We thank God that we are witnessing the success of the jehad of the people of Afghanistan, the faithful and Muslim people. The great victory that has come about as a result of the will of God and the righteous wishes of the people [words indistinct] led to the formation of a mojahedin government, a state that is the wish of our people, a state that has come about as a result of the great sacrifices of mojahedin and the faithful people of Afghanistan.

On behalf of the Government of Afghanistan, we cordially congratulate you on the transfer of power to the government of the mojahedin. We congratulate all the people of Afghanistan on the mojahedin government and wish it success under the leadership of the great scholar Hazrat Mojaddedi and his noble and honest colleagues.

We believe that God is with them and that the problems the people faced during the past 14 years will, God willing, be resolved one after another. [words indistinct] God is helping them and the people are with them. I assure you that members of the government of Afghanistan, as members of Afghan society, will not spare any cooperation for the success of the work of other Afghan brothers, the success of this state, and their success to restore peace and unity [words indistinct].

Former Chief Justice Wishes Success

LD2804230392 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1615 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Speech by Shadan, former chief justice of the Supreme Court, at the first meeting of the Islamic Jihad Council of Afghanistan in Kabul on 28 April—recorded]

[Text] Esteemed teacher, your honor, your holiness Mojaddedi, president of the Islamic government of Afghanistan! Representing [words indistinct] of Afghanistan, and thankful to Almighty God that today, after 14 years of killing and bloodshed and many other injustices, an atmosphere of peace has come with the arrival of you and the mojahedin brothers in Kabul, the heart of Afghanistan. May God bring you and all the mojahedin brothers success in remedying the wounds of the suffering people of Afghanistan. I believe that, God willing, God has always been with you and will always be with you. Success comes from God.

Wolasi Jerga Congratulates Mojaddedi

LD2804231692 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1615 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Speech by Khalil Ahmad 'Abawi, chairman of the Wolasi Jerga, at the first meeting of the Islamic Jihad Council of Afghanistan in Kabul on 28 April—recorded]

[Excerpt] In the name of God, the compassionate and merciful. Great teacher and esteemed scholar Hazrat Mojadeddi, president of the Islamic state of Afghanistan: In my turn, on my own behalf and for all the deputies of the Wolasi Jerga, I first want to congratulate you and all your esteemed and mojahedin collegues on your arrival in your country, Afghanistan. [crowwd shouts: "God is great"]

I congratulate you, all the mojahedin, and the Islamic state of Afghanistan headed by you. I promise you that we will be with you for the realization of your sacred wishes to enhance the miserable and oppressed nation of Afghanistan, which has lost all its belongings and endowment over the past 13 years of war, down to our last breath and the last drop of our blood. I ask God for your further success in achieving these wishes and I offer my cordial congratulations once again to you and all the mojahedin. [shouts of "God is great"]

I wish you health and I wish for health and success for the mojahedin, who have sacrificed so much for this goal. [passage omitted]

Senate Chairman Congratulations on Victory

LD2904021192 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1615 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Address by Senate Chairman Mahmud Habibi at the first meeting of the Islamic Jihad Council of Afghanistan in Kabul on 28 April—recorded]

[Text] Hazrat Mojaddedi, I congratulate you on behalf of the Afghan Senate. I congratulate you, your colleagues, strugglers, mojahedin once again on your success and wish your success from Almighty God. [audience shouts: "God is great!"]

On behalf of the Senate's elders, I promise that they will be with you at every moment. I again welcome you on their behalf and assure you, esteemed teacher, that the Senate's elders appreciate the value of your struggle and welcome it. At these critical moments in history, when brothers submit power to other brothers, I believe that it is a matter of great pride for the people of Afghanistan that one brother transfer power and authority to another brother peacefully. I assure you that not only our country's elders but also every Afghan and every muslim knows that they need peace before anything else. We welcome you here as the bearer of peace. [audience shouts: "God is great!"]

We wish your success especially in this respect. I again wish you health, long life, and success. Success comes from God.

Reportage on Transfer Ceremony, News Conference

Tehran Radio on Mojaddedi News Conference

LD2804192692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, president of the Provisional Governing Council of Afghanistan, took part in a news conference this afternoon after arriving in Kabul.

According to a report from our correspondent in Kabul, the news conference—which was more like a ceremony to mark the transfer of power—was attended by a number of high-ranking officials of the former Kabul regime, including the prime minister, the parliamentary speaker, the head of the judicial power, and ambassadors and legation heads from foreign countries.

At the news conference the president of the Provisional Governing Council of Afghanistan expressed his delight

over the mojahedin victory and the establishment of an Islamic government, as the people of Afghanistan desired. He expressed his satisfaction over the help and efforts of the people and Governments of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan as well as the United Nations.

Replying to a question from our correspondent on the participation of the Islamic Unity Party in the future Afghan Government, Sebghatollah Mojaddedi said: Talks on that issue have been held with the leaders of that party; we have achieved some progress. We hope to arrive at a full understanding with the Islamic Unity Party in the future.

Delhi Radio on Mojaddedi Takeover

BK2904041292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] In Afghanistan, the head of the Joint Interim Mojahedin Council, Professor Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, has declared a general amnesty excluding the former president Dr. Najib. In a message to the nation, he said Dr. Najib's fate will be decided by the people of the country. Prof. Mojaddedi also declared Afghanistan as an Islamic republic. He appealed to over 6 million Afghan refugees living in Iran, Pakistan, and other countries to return home and help in the task of national reconstruction.

Prof. Mojaddedi said that Afghanistan's relations with India will be warm and cordial. Replying to a question from ASIA NEWS INTERNATIONAL, he said Afghanistan will give top priority to the region and in that context, the traditional ties with India will be significant.

Prof. Mojaddedi took over power yesterday from the senior officials of the former Afghan government. Reports say as the ceremony was going on fighting broke out again between rival mojahedin groups, but it later subsided. Mojahedin fighters loyal to the new interim administration have captured the interior ministry building in Kabul. It was the last stronghold held by the Hezb-e Eslami group.

In another development, the Hezb-e Eslami headed by Mr. Golbuddin Hekmatyar, has named Ostad Farid as its nominee for the prime ministership in the new government. They had earlier refused to join. One of the mojahedin groups, the National Islamic Front of Afghanistan, has refused to accept Ostad Farid as the prime minister. It is not immediately known whether the other mojahedin groups had agreed to his nomination.

Pakistan has recognized the joint interim mojahedin council. The United States has welcomed the installation of the new ruling council.

Fighting Breaks Out Near Ceremony

BK2804150992 Hong Kong AFP in English 1446 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] Kabul, April 28 (AFP)—Heavy fighting broke out again Tuesday [28 April] in the Afghan capital Kabul shortly after moderate mojahedin leader Sebghatollah Mojaddedi assumed the interim presidency of the country.

The fighting broke out in the vicinity of the Foreign Ministry, where the handover ceremony took place, and downtown areas between his supporters and guerrillas of radical leader Golbuddin Hekmatyar, witnesses said.

Mojahedin commandos in camouflage battledress and brandishing rocket-launchers and AK-47 assault rifles had thrown a tight security cordon for the ceremony, which began with the recitation of verses from the Koran.

But heavy exchanges of artillery fire around an embattled bridge in the south of the city coincided with the handover of power, which came a day after the 14th anniversary of the communist coup that led to the country's civil war.

The shelling, followed by the clashes near the Foreign Ministry, broke a lull in two days of heavy fighting between guerrillas owing allegiance to Jam'iyat-e Eslami faction commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud and his rival Golbuddin Hekmatyar. Mojaddedi is backed by Mas'ud.

Further Reportage on Factional Battles

Hezb-e Eslami Controls of Ghazni

LD2804044992 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0145 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] Our correspondent reports from Ghazni Province that heroes of the Hezb-e Eslami of Afghanistan took complete control of Ghazni garrison prior to their attack on Kabul city.

Civilians Killed by Rocket Fire

LD2804124592 Tehran IRNA in English 1032 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] Kabul, April 27, IRNA—About 100 civilians were killed or injured, when a rocket exploded in Kabul's Bagaran district today.

Factional fighting which continues sporadically in Kabul has in addition killed tens of mujahideen from rival groups.

Some of the corpses of the recent clashes still litter the streets. Thus in which relief teams do not have access to the injured.

According to the IRNA correspondent, gunfire continued to rattle different parts of Kabul last night, with the surrounding hillocks witnessing clashes between

mujahideen loyal to Ahmad Shah Mas'ud of the Jam'iyat-e Eslami and supporters of Hezb-e Eslami chief Golboddin Hekmatyar.

However, by 5 A.M. local time gunfire gradually died down. According to Jam'iyat-e Eslami sources Hekmatyar's forces were dislodged from several points and driven out of the city.

There is no information available on the actual toll of the clashes which have raged since the last two days.

The IRNA correspondent saw tens of casualties of the recent clashes hospitalized in a Kabul hospital.

Power has been cut and the city was engulfed in darkness last night.

Meanwhile, Mas'ud's forces have taken security precautions and made necessary arrangements for the expected arrival of members of the 50-man interim council, which led by its chief Sebghatollah Mojaddedi crossed into Afghanistan from Pakistan by car today.

Jam'iyat, Hezb Troops Continue Clashes

BK2904082892 Hong Kong AFP in English 0733 GMT 29 Apr 92

[By Kate Webb]

[Text] Kabul, April 29 (AFP)—Mojahedin troops loyal to the new Afghan interim government said Wednesday [29 April] they had cleared out a major opposition center in downtown Kabul in overnight fighting.

"We took about 125 prisoners in the battle," said a commando of the Jam'iyat-e Eslami faction loyal to the new government, speaking in front of the white, multistoried Interior Ministry. Fighters of the Hezb-e Eslami faction of mojahedin rebel leader Golboddin Hekmatyar had been holed up at the ministry for the past three days.

However the young commando, Ahmad Shah, a longtime Kabul resident toting a rocket-propelled grenade launcher, said an unknown number of Hezb fighters were still in the basement of the ministry building. The Hezb, opposed to the government that assumed power Tuesday, have been battling for control of Kabul since mojahedin of different factions entered the city on Saturday.

Shah said the electricity was out in the Interior Ministry building, adding that Jam'iyat troops were waiting for the building's elevators to start working before they attempted to flush out their opponents. Electricity was cut throughout the entire city of 1.5 million people overnight, but the cause was not clear. Only houses with generators had power.

Diplomats said they had been summoned to the Foreign Ministry mid-morning Wednesay, the first full day in office of the new transitional coalition government. The council now in power entered Kabul triumphantly Tuesday led by 70-year-old mojahedin politician Sebghatollah Mojaddedi to take over from the communist regime of ousted President Najibollah.

In the streets of the capital Wednesday, hundreds of civil servants walked warily to their offices past mojahedin checkpoints in response to a call by Radio Kabul. A few smaller shops were open despite sporadic shooting incidents, but major business centers were still shuttered. Telephones in most areas were cut, and the airport, threatened in the past three days by Hezb anti-aircraft fire, was closed to civilian flights.

Sources close to the new government cautioned that despite the apparently successful two-hour battle for the Interior Ministry, the battle for Kabul appeared to be far from over. Many groups of armed Hezb fighters remained in the city ready to resume the battle against Jam'iyat loyalists, the sources said.

"There are too many groups, the situation is still very nervous," said one Western diplomat whose car was hit by small arms fire in renewed street fighting that broke out Tuesday. Tuesday's battles erupted shortly after Mojaddedi's Islamic government ceremonially assumed power.

The sources also said several mojahedin groups in the city, though loyal to the new government, considered themselves neutral in the Jam'iyat-Hezb fight. The neutral forces were letting Hezb groups move through the suburbs they controlled with impunity, they said, complicating the tense patchwork of control of the city, carved up between mojahedin factions.

The faction under leader Yunus Khales was neutral, faction commander Mohammad Amin told journalists Tuesday. He said the Khales group, itself a breakaway party from Hekmatyar's Hezb faction, had offered to stand as a buffer between Jam'iyat and Hezb troops to prevent further destruction of the city.

Jam'iyat Controls Interior Ministry

BK2904105692 Hong Kong AFP in English 1040 GMT 29 Apr 92

[By Anil Penna]

[Text] Kabul, April 29 (AFP)—Radical fundamentalist leader Golboddin Hekmatyar is not in a position to pose a serious threat to Afghanistan's new Islamic transitional government, interim president Sebghatollah Mojaddedi said Wednesday [29 April]. "He cannot do too much against us now," he said in a brief conversation with reporters at the foreign ministry after meeting Kabul's diplomatic corps.

Gunfire crackled and shelling was heard in the city as Mojaddedi, 70, spoke.

A spokesman for the interim president told AFP that Jam'iyat-e Eslami fighters backing Mojaddedi were in

control of the interior ministry, having driven Hekmatyar guerrillas out. Mojaddedi did not elaborate on the magnitude of the threat from Hekmatyar, who has been vying with his arch rival Ahmad Shah Mas'ud of the Jam'iyat for the control of Kabul. He said he would discuss later the question of participation by Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami faction in the interim transitional council.

Mojaddedi who took power Tuesday from remnants of the Soviet-installed Kabul regime, told diplomats he regretted problems resulting from the heavy fighting in Kabul between rival guerrillas, which he blamed on "no discipline." "This violence will naturally create some problems. But we are going to counter it."

Without naming the Hezb-e Eslami, he said "some people thought Mojaddedi may not reach Kabul" from Pakistan to take power. "But Mojaddedi had faith in his goal," he said of his triumphant entry into Kabul. "This is not the time for killing people, torturing people," the interim leader said. "It is the time of friendship, of co-existence."

Mojaddedi, an Islamic moderate, thanked Pakistan, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United States effusively for their help in the "jehad" (holy war) against the Kabul regime. "We Afghans are poor people, but we are sincere," he said. "We hope to keep good relations with all countries, especially peace-loving countries." Afghanistan's foreign policy would be governed by the principle of "mutual non-interference in each other's affairs," he said.

The white-bearded leader called for help in rebuilding the war-ravaged Afghan economy, saying: "We hope you will not hesistate to offer us your assistance for the resconstruction of our country."

Mojaddedi was working as a scholar at an Islamic cultural centre in Copenhagen, Denmark, at the time of the Soviet-inspired 1978 coup d'etat. His brother, six other relatives and their families were massacred by the communists.

Mojaddedi said he was laughed at and called a mad man when he left for Pakistan after the coup to launch a struggle against the Kabul regime without a single gun. The struggle, he said, had been imposed on the mojahedin.

"We had to defend our religion, our people, our country," he said adding that the jihad's triumph was due to the "Almighty God—the only superpower."

Islamic Unity 'Neutral' in Fighting, Favors Peace

LD2804144592 Tehran IRNA in English 1349 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] Kabul, April 28, IRNA—The Iran-based Islamic Unity Party of Afghanistan (IUP), in a bid to restore its rights and end conflicts in Afghanistan, calls for a peaceful settlement of disputes among Afghan groups, said a member of IUP's central committee, Zahedi, in a press conference here Tuesday.

He said his party has taken a neutral position in the current fighting in Kabul and that IUP favors establishment of peace, tranquility and guaranteeing security for the people in the capital.

He said that the 50-member council should represent all strata of the Afghan people and that one-fourth of the council should be selected from among Shiite Muslims.

Zahedi indicated that all mojahedin groups have had a share in the recent victories and that the role of Golboddin Hekmatyar in future Afghanistan will depend on his present performance and stands.

According to Zahedi, IUP has given priority to safeguarding the lives and properties of the people and that forces under its command will stand against any group which attempts to take the fighting to residential areas.

Noting that no fighting has taken place in the Shiite quarters in Kabul in the past several days, Zahedi urged all the forces to avoid civil war and setting the capital city on fire.

He also lauded the Islamic Republic of Iran for extending cultural and educational help to the Afghan mojahedin adding that Iran's treatment of the Afghan refugees has been the best.

Iran's Help Requested Clearing Mines in Herat

LD2704143592 Tehran IRNA in English 1309 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Herat, April 27, IRNA—Esma'il Khan, chairman of the 30-member council in control of Herat Province, western Afghanistan, today called on international institutes and particularly the Islamic Republic of Iran, to de-mine the routes and suburbs of the province.

Speaking to IRNA in this historical city which presently lies some 140 kms east of the Iranian border, he said these mines are the main threat against the lives of the residents and specially the unsuspecting children who frequent the ruins along the cities.

"We do not have modern equipment needed for sweeping the mine-fields," added Esma'il Khan who is a member of the Jam'iyat-e Eslami party.

The minefields have killed or injured over 20 people over the past ten days and some of the victims have been transferred to hospitals in Mashad, capital of the Khorasan Province in Iran.

Various types of mines had been planted by the Najibollah forces as security belts around towns and cities in Afghanistan.

Relief Aid Distributed in Herat

LD2704130592 Tehran IRNA in English 0737 GM 27 Apr 92

[Text] Herat, Afghanistan, April 27, IRNA—Some 300 tonnes of aids sent by the Islamic Republic of Iran were distributed among people of Herat Sunday by the Iranian consulate.

The 20 truck-load of aids, including flour, rice, date, cereals and canned fruits were carried to the western province of Herat, 140 kms from Iran's eastern border. A delegation from the Red Crescent Society (RCS) and an envoy of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (LORCS) accompanied the relief supplies.

The delegation will review Herat's health, medical care and pharmaceutical problems and needs in the area for dispatch of further supplies.

Earlier Sunday two tonnes of Iranian donated pharmaceutical aid arrived in Herat.

Parisian Paper Cites 'Afghan Source' on Najibollah

PM2704143492 Paris LE MONDE in French 25 Apr p 4

[Bruno Philip report: "There Was a Plot Against Mr. Najibullah"]

[Text] Kabul—Former President Najibollah attempted to flee on the night of 15 to 16 April to avoid being arrested by his secret police: This is what an Afghan source told LE MONDE, citing General Omar, head of military intelligence.

At around 1800 hours on the evening of 15 April, Mr. Najibollah summoned to his office the senior officials in charge of state security (officially known as WAD) and of the army. The meeting was stormy: Gen. Omar, his colleague General Hashim, and Security Minister Ya'qubi—all Pashtun and supporters of the head of state—started by accusing the officers of the 40th Division based near the city of Charikar and the Bagram air base, which had fallen into the hands of the Muslim rebels two days earlier, of treason.

Those officers had in fact negotiated their surrender with Commander Mas'ud. In front of the president were four officers—Genral Delawar, chief of staff, Deputy Defense Minister Nabi 'Azimi, Vice President Muhammad Rafi', and Yor Muhammad, number three in state security. They were enemies of Najibollah—Tajiks. For days they had been negotiating with the mojahedin. "You are traitors," Gen. Hashim shouted at them. "You ought to be court-martialed!" "I no longer recognize you as my chief," Gen. Yor Muhammad, replied to minister Ya'qubi. A coup d'etat had started.

After violent verbal exchanges, President Najibollah left, under a hail of insults from his opponents. Accompanied by his brother Hamadzai, he went home. A surprise awaited him there: Outside his door, his bodyguard Attatullah Djabar and Muhammad Toukhi, his adviser, informed him that the secret police were waiting for him. Najibollah panicked and fled.

Did he go direct to the airport in a UN car as some diplomats say? Or, as our source claims, did he head for the headquarters of the UN mission? It does not matter: Whether or not Mr. Najibollah was turned back at the airport by Uzbek militiamen led by Commander Rashid Dostam, Commander Mas'ud's new ally, the former head of state was forced into a hasty departure by his enemies within the army and the party. Security Minster Ya'qubi "committed suicide" shortly afterward—allegedly with "four bullets in the head"—in the company of Gen. Baqui. Gen. Omar, head of the army's "special services," was apparently arrested. As for the four generals who faced accusations that evening, they are now sharing the remnants of power in Kabul. Mr. Najibollah is still sheltering at UN headquarters where nobody knows how to get rid of that embarrassing guest.

Bangladesh

Burmese Foreign Minister Vows To End Disputes

BK2604161892 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] The visiting foreign minister of Myanmar [Burma], Ohn Gyaw, called on president Abdur Rahman Biswas at Banga Bhavan [President's House] today. During the meeting, the Myanmar foreign minister assured the president that his country would settle amicably all existing problems with Bangladesh. Mr. Ohn Gyaw also informed the president about the Myanmar Government's sincerity to resolve the Rohingya refugee problem. Myanmar and Bangladesh, he said, are two close neighbors who have trust and complete understanding and good neighborliness. He said the gap of understanding between the two countries would be narrowed down through mutual and frequent visits of delegations of both Myanmar and Bangladesh. Mr. Ohn Gyaw apprised President Biswas of the fruitful discussion he had with the government leaders in Dhaka and said he is looking forward to further mutual cooperation in the economic and cultural fields between the two countries.

President Biswas said there is a traditional relationship between the two countries and hoped that all the problems would be resolved in the spirit of mutual understanding.

Refugee Repatriation Agreements Signed With Burma

BK2804162992 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] Myanmar [Burmese] Muslim refugees will start going back home in three weeks under two agreements signed between Bangladesh and Myanmar in Dhaka today. The first agreement outlining the general principles of the repatriation was signed by Bangladesh Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman and the visiting

Myanmar foreign minister, U Ohn Gyaw. The second one, a technical agreement laying out the modalities of repatriation, was signed by the officials of the two countries. The formal signing ceremony at the state guest house this morning was witnessed among others by Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury, State Minister for Relief Lutfur Rahman Khan, and Myanmar Minister for Information Brigadier Brigadier Myo Thant.

At a news conference after the signing in ceremony, the Bangladesh foreign minister said the repatriation will start in three weeks and is expected to be completed within six months. He said until today 223,000 refugees have registered themselves in Bangladesh. Replying to a question, Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman said the two sides discussed the issue at length and the talks were held in a cordial atmosphere. He said the repatriation will be done on bilateral basis and cooperation of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees will be sought only if both sides feel it necessary at a later stage. Replying to another question, the Bangladesh foreign minister said he hoped all refugees will be willing to go back home voluntarily.

The Myanmar foreign minister replying to a question said the refugees were Myanmar residents and will be taken back if they can produce some evidence of their residentship. Those who have valid documents will be taken first, and those who do not possess any papers will be considered on the basis of any documentary proof of their residentship. Denying the allegation of persecution, U Ohn Gyaw said the Myanmar authorities will undertake to create conditions congenial for their safe return. The [words indistinct] resettlement will not be necessary as they will go back to their own country, he added.

During its six-day visit, the Myanmar delegation also discussed with the Bangladesh side matters of bilateral cooperation, including prospects of setting up joint venture industries.

Burmese Pact Unacceptable to Refugee Leaders

BK2804163192 Hong Kong AFP in English 1529 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] Dhaka, April 28 (AFP)—Two groups representating [as published] Rohingya Muslim refugees from Burma have dismissed as "not acceptable" Tuesday's agreement between Bangladesh and Burma on the refugees' repatriation.

The Rohingya Solidarity Organisation (RSO) and the Arakan Rohingya Islamic Front (ARIF) said any permanent solution to the refugee problem must contain United Nations' guarantees on their security after returning as well as their citizenship status in Burma.

"There could be no permanent and effective solution to the influx problem of the Rohingyas" without U.N. involvement, said RSO secretary general Saidur Rahman in a telephone interview from Chittagong, near the Burmese border.

Nurul Islam, chairman of the rival ARIF, also expressed strong reservations over the agreement, but said his group was waiting for details.

Both Rahman and Islam, whose organisations have temporary offices near this port city, have claimed that the refugees want U N. guarantees before returning.

The agreement, reached after five days of talks, was signed by Burmese Foreign Minister Ohn Gyaw and his Bangladeshi counterpart Mustafizur Rahman, and provides for the "safe and voluntary" repatriation of tens of thousands of the Burmese Muslims, known as Rohingyas.

An estimated 250,000 of the refugees have flooded into Bangladesh in recent months, alleging atrocities by Burmese troops and contributing to an increase in tension along the border.

Under the 12-point agreement, the Burmese Government "agreed to take all necessary measures that would halt the outflow of Myanmar (Burmese) residents to Bangladesh, and encourage those who left Myanmar to return voluntarily and safely to their homes."

It said that in a spirit of cooperation, Rangoon agreed "to accept after scrutiny all those people who took shelter in Bangladesh and whose presence had been recorded" by the Bangladesh Government at their points of entry.

The Burmese side also "assured that lists provided by Bangladesh closely coincided with those persons verified" by Rangoon.

The two sides agreed to start the repatriation in three weeks and complete the process within six months.

Bangladesh officials said Tuesday that a total of 223,000 refugees were listed in several camps along Bangladesh's southeastern border with Burma.

On the role of the United Nations, both sides agreed that the Bangladesh Government would fully aid United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) personnel "in the process of safe and voluntary repatriation."

However, the Burmese Government agreed that the "services of the UNHCR could be drawn upon as needed at an appropriate time," an apparent concession to Burma's initial reluctance to have the United Nations involved.

The two government also agreed to work for "a comprehensive and permanent solution of the problem so as to prevent its recurrence in the future."

India

Russian Technology Only for 'Communications'

BK2504165492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] The defense minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, has said that India is seeking advanced rocket technology from Russia for improving communications and has no intention to divert it for developing modern weaponry. Talking to newsmen in Pune, Mr. Pawar said India has already conveyed to Russia in clearest possible terms that it wanted to use the rocket technology only for limited peaceful purposes. Referring to the reported American pressure on Russia to annul the transfer deal of rocket technology with India, Mr. Pawar said a team of experts has already been dispatched to Moscow to pursue the matter.

Research Agreement To Continue

BK2704151692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] India and Russia are to continue their cooperation in the field of space research which was an important facet of cooperation between India and the former Soviet Union. This was stated by the spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry in New Delhi today. Speaking to newsmen, he said this assessment is based on the intimation given by the chairman of the Space Research Organization, Professor U.R. Rao, who recently visited Russia. The spokesman said that Professor Rao came back with a general assurance that the previous agreement will remain effective and continue to be implemented, although some adjustments may become necessary in the changed international situation.

UAE President Arrives in Delhi to 'Warm Welcome'

BK2804141892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] The president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, has expressed the hope that India will play its traditional and positive role for peace and security of the Gulf. In a brief chat with the newsmen soon after his arrival in New Delhi this evening, Shaykh Al Nuhayyan said that his country looks forward to the continued support from India on any initiative on stability in the Gulf region. Earlier, the UAE president was given a warm and ceremonial welcome at Rashtrapati Bhavan [president house].

Commentary: Ghali Visit, Western-Oriented UN

BK2504112192 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Commentary by Prafful Bidwai of TIMES OF INDIA]

[Text] Judged by any criteria, Dr. Butrus Butrus Ghali's visit to this country has been less than a resounding success, not withstanding the Kashmir issue on which the UN secretary general had favored direct talks between India and Pakistan. Broadly speaking, there were four issues on Dr. Ghali's agenda which were raised during his extensive discussion with Indian leaders. The overall role of the United Nations in the new post-Cold War world order, its peace-building and peacekeeping functions in situations of conflict and dispute such as Afghanistan, Kashmir or Cambodia, its ability to promote a balanced distribution of power globally and to take up North-South issues, and finally India's place in the UN system.

The discussions in New Delhi did not register dramatic progress in any of these. Perhaps the least progress was made on the first question—the place of the UN in the emerging post-Cold War world. Here particularly, after the Gulf War and more recently on Libya, there had been many misgivings about the world body becoming partisan toward the West, in particular the United States. Rather than provide a countervailing standpoint and balance, many developing countries feel it has tended to reflect the skewed nature of new power balance and allowed itself to be manipulated.

Dr. Ghali has not set these misgivings at rest. Nor has he been able to answer criticism that the development promoting functions of the UN have regrettably been severely pruned. This has happened in a number of ways in the past few months. Major developments through its organizations and activities that reflect Third World concerns have been downgraded, including UNDP [United Nations Development Program], UNCTAD [United Nations Conference on Trade and Development], and UN environment program. Within the UN Secretariat, funds for such activities have been cut and priorities altered to the detriment of the developing world. At the same time, Dr. Ghali has drawn criticism from the G- 77 group of developing countries that he has placated narrow sectional First World interests at the behest of the United States and that it has placed controversial right-wing figure such as Governor Thornburgh in important positions in the Secretariat.

On the issue of peace-building, peace-keeping, and preventive diplomacy, the UN has certainly scored some recent success as in Namibia and Cambodia. But in Afghan and Yugoslavia, an arduous task may only be just the beginning.

Even on the role of India within the United Nations setup, there has been very little movement. Of late, there has been talk of accomodating India in an enlarged Security Council, perhaps, without veto power. However, this issue is fraught with a number of problems. Reopening the question of the constitution of the council, itself the product of the power equation of the Second World War, may not be easy.

On Afghanistan, however, Dr. Ghali's visit had a functional significance. India was able to communicate its concerns about a peaceful negotiated settlement in Kabul and the importance of moderate nonfundamentalist forces coming to power as the best guarantee of stability in the region. On the eve of Dr. Ghali's visit to Pakistan, this is certainly of some significance. All in all, Dr. Ghali has an arduous task ahead of him which calls for extraordinary diplomatic skills.

Former Kashmir Minister Shot, Wounded in Attack

BK2804151892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has demanded that an all-party delegation visit Jammu and Kashmir to assess the situation in the state. Briefing newsmen, party vice president, Mr. Krishna Lal Sharma, said the situation in the state is not conducive for holding elections and accused the government of misleading the nation on this count. He said the migrants have not returned and the 1981 census was not undertaken in the state, and wanted to know how elections could be held in such circumstances. Mr. Sharma further said the delimitation of constituencies had to be undertaken as the assembly strength has been increased.

In Kashmir valley, a former minister, Sheikh Mohammad Maqbool, was seriously injured and his brother, Mr. Javed Ahmad Sheikh, killed when militants fired on them in Baramula town last evening. Both of them were on their way to a mosque to offer prayers. Sheikh Maqbool was admitted to hospital where his condition is described as stable but not out of danger.

Blast Destroys Building; 3 Killed, 100 Injured

BK2904090292 Hong Kong AFP in English 0812 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] New Delhi, April 29 (AFP)—A powerful explosion brought down a four-storey building in one of the city's busiest trading districts Wednesday, killing at least three people and injuring 100, police and witnesses said.

The blast, which occurred mid-morning, also set fire to three or four shops and a large chemical storehouse in the area, they said. Fire brigade and police personnel were still searching in the rubble for more victims of the collapse in Delhi's Naya Bazaar district.

There was no immediate official comment on the incident.

Witnesses and policemen at the site of the collapse said the explosion occurred in a Hindu temple behind the decrepit building, bringing it down as office employees and traders were settling in for the day's work.

"The entire building has come down," an officer told reporters at the cordoned off site where hundreds of rescue workers were searching for more victims. "We are still trying to find out what caused the massive explosion," said a New Delhi police department official spokesman.

Iran

UN's Ghali Holds Talks, Departs Tehran

Further Talks With Velayati

LD2704115992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali and Foreign Minister Velayati had a second round of talks in Tehran this morning in which they discussed the latest reports on the situation in Afghanistan and the role of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] in establishing peace in that country.

In the course of the meeting UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali, expressed his concern over the clashes in Kabul and stated that his presence in the region is aimed at seeking the viewpoints of Iran and Pakistan on finding a just solution to restore calm in Afghanistan. He added: The IRI has been in close cooperation with the United Nations to find a political solution to the Afghan issue, and coordination among Iran, Pakistan, and the United Nations could play a significant role in establishing peace in that country. He said: We are determined to continue our close contact with the IRI in this connection.

Foreign Minister Velayati, for his part, having declared the IRI's readiness to cooperate with the United Nations in establishing peace in Afghanistan, said: The Afghan people, after enduring many hardships in recent years, are now in need of peace and tranquility, and we believe it is vital to establish a permanent peace in that country, mindful of Afghanistan's social situation and ethnic fabric.

Our foreign minister added: Once various groups and tribes feel they have a just and reasonable share in the management of the country, their spirit of cooperation toward maintaining unity in Afghanistan will increase, which will in turn decrease the chances of ethnic conflicts.

The important issues of interest regarding relations between the IRI and the United Nations, such as the IRI's extensive role in resolving regional issues, including the Karabakh dispute, were also discussed at the meeting, and Dr. Velayati called for extensive international cooperation in resolving the Karabakh issue.

The UN secretary general, having praised the IRI for its constructive role in terms of resolving the regional crises, stressed the need for closer cooperation between the United Nations and our country.

Meets With Mojahedin Leaders

LD2704134592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] According to a report from an IRIB correspondent, UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali, who has come to the region to help resolve the Afghan issue, met with representatives of Afghanistan's Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami in Tehran before noon today to discuss the latest developments in Afghanistan. At the meeting the representatives of Afghanistan's Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami, having thanked the United Nations for its efforts for a political solution to the Afghan issue, declared their readiness to continue their cooperation with the envoy of the UN secretary general.

The representatives of Afghanistan's Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami, emphasizing the existence of various faiths and ethnic groups in Afghanistan, said: The Afghan issue should be resolved fairly, taking into account the proper revolutionary and popular role of each of the ethnic groups in the political future of the country.

On the basis of this statement, the UN secretary general stressed the need to observe the rights of all groups in Afghanistan's future government.

According to our correspondent's report, this was the UN secretary general's first meeting with an Afghan mojahedin group during his visit to the region.

Talks 'Very Constructive'

LD2704140492 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in English 1315 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] The UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali left Tehran today after a 24-hour stay during which he held dialogue with senior Iranian officials. The UN chief was seen off by Iran's Foreign Minister Mr. Velayati. Prior to his departure Mr. Ghali portrayed as very constructive his talks with his Iranian host and conceded that the UN peace-seeking efforts regarding Afghanistan will continue through his special envoy Mr. Sevan.

Holds News Conference

LD2704135492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali, at a news conference after his second round of talks with Foreign Minister Velayati, described his talks with officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] as very positive, saying they had discussed ways of establishing peace and stability and strengthening the bases of national reconciliation in Afghanistan as well as defending its territorial integrity and political independence. He added: We were in full agreement on continuing our efforts and cooperation toward attaining these goals and in hoping that wisdom and rationality will overcome differences. Mr. Ghali said: We will continue our discussions with IRI officials to realize our objectives.

Mr. Velayati called their talks extremely positive and constructive, saying: Today the Afghan issue is an extraordinarily sensitive and significant one. We support the UN efforts to establish a just peace as well as the efforts of the Afghan mojahedin and Muslim people of Afghanistan to set up a government that is acceptable to the majority of that country's people.

The foreign minister said: As in the past, we will not stop short of giving any assistance toward establishing peace and stability and an Islamic and popular government in Afghanistan. He expressed the hope that the conflicts in Afghanistan would end very soon and that the Afghan people would be able to enjoy the fruits of a popular government, as well as peace and prosperity, after years of struggle.

Mr. Velayati said: We also discussed the IRI's mediation role between the two countries of Azerbaijan and Armenia with Mr. Butrus Ghali, and the UN secretary general praised Iran's positive role. The foreign minister added: We are ready to establish closer cooperation with the United Nations on Afghanistan and Karabakh issues and will be witnessing the IRI's greater participation in world and international issues.

Velayati Vows To Back Afghanistan

LD2704155292 Tehran IRNA in English 1353 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Tehran, April 27, IRNA—Visiting U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus Ghali left Tehran Monday after a two-day visit and talks with President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati on the future of Afghanistan and other regional issues.

Before his departure, Butris Ghali in a brief interview with reporters at Tehran airport described his talks in Tehran as "fruitful, positive and constructive."

"We share the same objective. Afghanistan being a member of the United Nations, our objective is to preserve the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Afghanistan and promote peace and security in that country," Ghali said.

He said the rehabilitation of Afghanistan was another subject he had discussed with Iranian officials.

Referring to millions of Afghan refugees now living in Iran and Pakistan, the U.N. chief said the world body had to manage the return of the refugees to their country, something which would need assistance from the United Nations system.

"Unless we have peace and security (in Afghanistan) we will not be able to provide this financial and technical assistance," the U.N. chief added.

He said that on various occasions he established contacts with leaders of different Afghan mojahedin groups and

that his message to them was that they should promote reconciliation and create a common coalition on an equal basis between all factions.

The U.N. chief made it clear that one should avoid marginalizing one Afghan faction at the expense of another one and that the same chances should be given to all groups to participate in the new government and new the political life of Afghanistan.

Ghali who assumed the secretary-generalship of the U.N. early this year, said his visit to Iran also provided the occasion to discuss the conflict between the Caucasus republics of Azerbaijan and Armenia, with Iranian officials.

The U.N. chief said that it was agreed during talks with Iranian officials, the importance of finding a peaceful solution to the conflict.

Velayati, who saw off Ghali, told reporters that the Islamic Republic would continue its efforts to establish peace and security in Afghanistan.

"Our objective is to restore peace and tranquility in Afghanistan and help a popular and Islamic government as wished by the Afghan people to be formed in that country," he said.

Regretting the current clashes between certain mojahedin factions in Kabul, Velayati advised them to start negotiations rather than fighting each other.

The foreign minister vowed that Iran would help the people of Afghanistan reconstruct their country.

A large amount of foods and pharmaceutical relief aid has been dispatched by Iran to various Afghan cities, he added.

Envoy in Afghanistan Meets With Mojaddedi

NC2904062392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] The charge d'affaires of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Afghanistan met with Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, chairman of the 51-man council of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, yesterday afternoon to discuss developments. The charge said: As before, Iran supports the formation of an independent and united Islamic government in Afghanistan.

During the meeting, Mojaddedi thanked Iran for its support and called for the continuation of aid to the Afghan nation.

Aid to Afghanistan Continues; Planes Arrive 28 Apr

NC2904054892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0230 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] Two C-130 planes carrying aid from Iran to the people of Afghanistan arrived in Mazar-e Sharif yesterday. Najafi, adviser to the foreign minister and head of the special office for Afghanistan, was welcomed by mojahedin, personalities, and the Muslim people of Mazar-e Sharif yesterday afternoon.

In an interview, Najafi said he is visiting the area to continue the Islamic Republic's aid to Afghanistan and to convey the congratulatory message of the officials and people of Iran to the victorious and mojahed Afghan people. He noted that the dispatch of aid to Afghanistan will continue.

The foreign minister's adviser met and talked with various Mazar-e Sharif personalities yesterday.

Construction Ministry Offers Help to Afghanistan

LD2704201192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] The Construction Jehad has announced its readiness to assist the Muslim nation of Afghanistan to rebuild its villages and farmland and to implement various development projects.

Issuing a statement in this connection today, the Construction Jehad Ministry announced that it is ready to hasten to assist the revolutionary people of Afghanistan by passing its experience and technical knowledge in various fields of agriculture. The statement stressed: The Construction Ministry is ready to perform its Islamic, religious, and revolutionary mission in accordance with the instructions of the true religion of Islam and the duty of Muslims to assist and support one another.

Destruction in Afghan Town of Herat Noted

LD2704200292 Tehran IRNA in English 1657 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Herat, April 27, IRNA—In the western part of the historic city of Herat alone, 20,000 houses were destroyed by Communist forces over the past 14 years. Communist troops had levelled the houses to the ground in order to prevent the advance of the revolutionary forces towards the area, Mohammad Ismael, a resident of the city told IRNA here today.

"Nothing can be seen for acres around except for mounds of rubble where once stood lively residential quarters which boosted one of the most thriving market centres of Afghanistan", he said. Showing the minefields at the site of the ruins to the IRNA correspondent, Ismael said nothing has remained of the elegant minarets and the colourful historical monuments of the city, which lies some 140 kms from the Iranian borders.

Herat, one of the greatest centres of Islamic art and culture for over a millenium, has some of the finest specimens of Persian architecture, some of them dating back to the third century hejira. The extent of damage caused to the historical mosques and madrasahs of Herat, some of whom have been reduced to a rubble by Soviet and Afghan regime bombardment over the years, is uncalculable.

60 year old Abdul Karim, told IRNA that the brutal crimes of the Communists in Afghanistan have made the people homeless for 14 years. Abdul Karim with tears rolling down his weather-beaten countenance said during these years only women, children, teenagers and the elderly could come to the cities.

Expressing his heartfelt joy for the Islamic victory in Afghanistan, he called on Muslim countries to provide Afghanistan with necessary aid.

Press Reviews Afghanistan Events, UN Plans

Mojahedin Should 'Avoid Selfish Motives'

LD2904082492 Tehran IRNA in English 0622 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] Tehran, April 29, IRNA—The two English dailies Wednesday editorialized on situation in Afghanistan with both calling on the Mojahedin leaders to avoid selfish motives.

'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' referred to the Afghan Mojahedin's efforts in ousting the former Soviet forces from their country and the subsequent ouster of Najibollah as "one of the most important achievements in the history of Afghanistan." It stressed "Islam played a key role with regard to Mojahedin's victory."

"This historic triumph will not have its positive results realized without the continued cooperation and unity of all concerned groups, irrespective of their size and power."

It noted that the provisional government in Kabul is basically made up of the members of the Peshawar-based Mojahedin adding that "the Tehran-based Islamic Unity Party leaders must also be included in the provisional government. Excluding one party from the government will surely weaken it."

"The Mojahedin leaders should view the current situation with open mind and avoid individualistic and selfish motives realized at the exclusion of other groups."

The other daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' said the choice of Sebghatollah Mojaddedi to lead the country on a path of reconciliation appears to be "a very prudent move."

"With so many inherent problems to overcome, rallying behind the transitionary council has to be the order of the day, of the coming weeks and months."

It blamed Golboddin Hekmatyar of Hezb-e Eslami who refuses to join other groups in peace efforts, as the first major problem encountered by the council.

"Should Hekmatyar continue to reject such sincere attempts to rebuild the country from the ashes of 14 years of war, there seems to be no choice than to proceed ahead without him. The consequences can only mean isolation for him, both politically and militarily," concluded TEHRAN TIMES.

Media Discuss Afghan Crisis, U.S., UN Roles

NC2804101092

[Editorial Report] Tehran papers have carried various commentaries on developments in Afghanistan. A representative sampling follows:

Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian on 18 April carries an unattributed commentary, titled "Developments in Afghanistan and U.S. Covert Efforts." The paper claims that the ground is being paved for future U.S. involvement, saying: "It appears that behind all the reports and news from Afghanistan certain things are happening which resemble a sort of political collusion for the division of power instead of an amicable solution to a crisis. It seems that with the help of the United Nations, the United States intends to allow events to continue until the only way out is a U.S.-planned military solution."

The paper notes how this would enhance U.S. strategy, saying: "First, the military situation would not be allowed to get out of hand and the ensuing propaganda would tout the fact that America solved the Afghan crisis.

"Second, by capitalizing on this opportunity, the political elements with U.S. ties will take power."

The paper adds: "There is no doubt that the United States does not care one bit about the Afghan people. What is happening in Afghanistan is being dictated by the White House and implemented by the United Nations in order to create an atmosphere of political security in Afghanistan so that U.S. interests will be protected in the region. This is especially true when you take into account Afghanistan's future importance; that is, its impact on political and cultural relations of the Central Asian Muslims.

"This is why we should understand that the current period is the most fateful of the entire struggle."

The paper concludes: "The intelligence of the Afghan mojahedin leaders and the awareness of the Afghan people can ensure the interests and welfare of the nation and their aspirations; that is, the establishment of an Islamic government in Afghanistan. This is exactly what the United States is trying to prevent, believing that the establishment of an Islamic government in Afghanistan would damage the hegemonic avarice of the United States in the region."

On 20 April, Tehran ABRAR in Persian carries an unattributed commentary, titled: "Afghanistan: Holy War or Sanguinary Discord?."

The paper assesses the "varied strategy" of the morass of mojahedin splinter groups against the perspective of the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, saying: "These groups had a unifying influence during the struggle against communists and enjoyed the military support of pro-Western countries seeking a political presence in Afghanistan's future."

ABRAR also says that the United States is waiting for an opportunity to make its move in Afghanistan, saying: "As the trend in Afghanistan moves from unity toward discord and civil strife, the chances of UN or U.S. intervention on the pretext of preventing the proliferation of the war and the killing of civilians will increase."

In conclusion, the daily draws a grim picture of the outcome of the prevailing discord, noting: "While the Afghan Muslim nation is counting the minutes toward a final victory, it should strive to prevent the unifying forces from being scattered or it will face a future darker than its past. The current unity will be replaced by a desire for power, and bullying and arms will take the place of wisdom and logic. It is, therefore, difficult to foresee a bright future for Afghanistan."

Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian on 13 April carries a commentary from its foreign desk, entitled: "Will the Afghanistan Crisis End?" The paper recounts the achievements of Benon Sevan, saying: "Sevan convinced Najibollah to step down and has been able to elicit the concurrence of all the countries involved in the Afghanistan problem, especially Iran, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia toward a peaceful solution."

In the same pessimistic, though rather realistic vein which is reflected in all the commentaries, the paper asks: "Will such major developments culminate in the end to the Afghanistan crisis and the return of stability in this country, as political circles believe? Unfortunately the answer to this question is hard to determine in view of the conflicts and differences which are the outcome of the 13-year war in the tribal society of Afghanistan. Of all these differences, the fissure between the Afghan mojahedin leaders on the UN peace plan is noteworthy."

"The groups led by Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, Mowlavi Mohammad Bani Mohammadi, and Seyyed Ahmad Gaylani have accepted the plan. On the contrary, 'Abdorrab Rasul Sayyaf, Mowlavi Yunes Khales, and Golboddin Hekmatyar are intensely opposed to it. The Jam'iyat-e Eslami, led by Borhanoddin Rabbani, and the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami, which are comprised of Shiite Afghan groups based in Iran, have accepted the peace plan conditionally. The UN envoy will have a hard time incorporating those conditions, especially those of the Jam'iyat-e Eslami, into a final plan."

The paper discusses the heterogeneous composition of Afghan society, saying: "The tribal structure of Afghanistan cannot be ignored as a threat to national stability. The Tajik, Uzbek, Hazara and other ethnic groups have always been unhappy with the Pashtuns' political dominance. On the other hand, the Pashtuns have never been terribly unified themselves. The Gilzai and the 'Alizai Pashtuns were never happy with the monopoly of power in the hands of the Dorrani Pashtuns, led by Zaher Shah."

U.S. intervention is also discussed in this commentary: "It may be said that even if 'covert hands' were to set about physically eliminating opposing group of mojahedin leaders opposed to the peace plan—who until yesterday were considered close U.S. allies and are now vehement foes—and even if they were successful in doing so, a peaceful future cannot be foreseen for Afghanistan in the short-term."

The daily presents a plan to end the turmoil in Afghanistan, saying: "The only factor that can create peace, tranquillity, and stability in Afghanistan is for all groups to firmly understand that the only means of salvation for a diversified society is a deep and realistic respect for other political and social views and acceptance of their participation in the politics and government."

The commentary concludes: "Some of the sides involved in Afghanistan who are trying to impose their views on all the other sides will not only be unable to alleviate the sorrows of the suffering people of Afghanistan but will only magnify their own woes."

IRNA on UN Plan

LD2804160592 Tehran IRNA in English 1437 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] United Nations, New York, April 28, IRNA—The U.N. secretary general has discussed with Iranian and Pakistani senior officials the U.N. plan for settlement of the remaining Afghan problems, formulated in cooperation with Tehran and Islamabad, news circles said here Tuesday [28 April].

The plan is said to be originally formulated by the U.N. chief special envoy for Afghanistan issue Benon Sevan. He is currently following up the plan both in Tehran and Islamabad.

Meanwhile, U.N. spokesperson Nadia Yunes did not rule out existence of such a plan. However, she told IRNA that Sevan speaking on the phone from Tehran yesterday made no reference to the plan.

Diplomatic sources here said they have no information about the plan. News sources, however, said that the plan envisages a peaceful settlement of the issues and transfer of power to representatives of the people.

In a related development, Yunes, speaking to reporters, said that the two-day visit to Tehran by U.N. chief Butrus Butrus Ghali was "important and constructive."

Yunes added that Butrus Ghali in Tehran discussed the situation in Afghanistan and Karabakh as well as full implementation of the U.N. Resolution 598.

The U.N. chief left Tehran for New York yesterday after negotiations with the Iranian president and foreign minister.

On Butrus Ghali's talks with leaders of the Islamic Unity Party of Afghanistan (IUP) in Tehran, the U.N. spokesperson said that the U.N. chief was acquainted with their viewpoints on Afghanistan adding that the meeting with IUP leaders was very significant in view of peaceful settlement of the crisis.

Commentary on UN Efforts

NC2604102892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Central News Unit Research Group commentary]

[Text] In the name of God. In the past few days, UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali took a new step by embarking on a visit to some Asian countries to resolve the existing problems on that continent. After concluding his visit to Southeast Asia to help resolve the Cambodian issue, the UN secretary general left for western Asia to hold talks on the situation in Afghanistan with the sides involved in this crisis.

There is no doubt that the United Nations has gained an important role in current international events. In the past few years in particular, this organization's actions in resolving regional crises have played an important part in eliminating the numerous problems which have confronted the individuals, countries and regions in the throes of those crises.

In the past few years, some of the UN efforts have been directed toward the Afghanistan crisis. Through its mediation efforts at various phases of the Afghanistan crisis, the United Nations has always sought to help bring about negotiations among all sides involved and attain an amicable solution.

The United Nations' first success, especially regarding the Afghanistan crisis, was to bring about the signing of the Geneva accord which paved the way for the Soviet forces to withdraw from Afghanistan and end the country's occupation. Ever since, even though war continued in Afghanistan, the United Nations has concentrated its efforts on attaining an amicable solution for ending this crisis. Through the various institutions affiliated with this organization, the United Nations has taken steps to alleviate the hardships of Afghanistan's suffering people by various means including food and medical assistance.

From the political aspect, UN efforts culminated in the formulation of the five-point plan to resolve the crisis, which was acceptable to all countries involved and also caught the attention of the Afghanistan mojahedin groups. In fact, the current circumstances in Afghanistan, which have raised hopes for ensuring peace, are the result of persistent UN efforts.

In recent months, after the United States and the CIS countries reached a consensus on halting arms supplies to Afghanistan, conditions became ripe for an amicable solution. In wake of this, the UN secretary general's special emissary Benon Sevan shuttled between the region's capitals seeking to win support for the five-point plan. Continuing these efforts, Sevan succeeded in convincing Kabul's rulers to accept the proposed solutions.

When the head of the Kabul regime announced last month that he was ready to relinquish power, this created the necessary conditions for change and Afghanistan was propelled into upheaval. Forces which formerly more or less cooperated with the Kabul regime joined the mojahedin, which isolated the ruling party politically and militarily.

Meanwhile, the UN envoy held talks with the mojahedin, the paramilitary forces, and government officials in Afghanistan and began efforts for a peaceful transfer of power. With his presence in Kabul, he has sought to change the course of events and prevent the outbreak of armed conflict.

Butrus Ghali has added a new dimension to UN efforts with his presence in the region. In the present circumstances, when mojahedin leaders have reached an agreement to establish a leadership and administrative apparatus, it appears that the United Nations, which is making efforts for a peaceful transfer of power, has found a new opportunity to organize the situation in Afghanistan. In fact, at this point in the developments, the United Nations can play an effective role in bringing about the international community's acceptance of these changes. Similarly, it also can strive to help these developments culminate in a situation acceptable to all the internal sides.

Meanwhile, it is expected that some criticism may help bring about the establishment of new administrative institutions which could carry out some reforms.

Besharati Receives Russian Message on Afghanistan

LD2804102792 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] Russia's ambassador in Tehran, Mr. Vladimir Viktorovich Gudev, today met with Deputy Foreign Minister Besharati and conveyed to him a message from President Yeltsin regarding the latest developments in Afghanistan.

In that message, the Russian president expressed appreciation and thanks for the extensive efforts made by the Islamic Republic of Iran toward the establishment of peace and tranquility in Afghanistan, and called for the continuation of these efforts.

The Russian ambassador also said: We have exerted a lot of effort to prevent armed conflict in Kabul and so that the transfer of power may take place calmly and without fighting. In spite of this, intensive fighting has begun in Kabul but we still hope that a politicial solution may be found to the problem of Afghanistan.

At this meeting, the deputy foreign minister of our country, while expressing thanks for the message from the president of Russia, said: We have really tried to prevent conflict in Afghanistan and today, more than before, we are continuing our efforts to bring an end to the conflict. And we still support a Muslim, independent, united, and nondependent Afghanistan which has good relations with its neighbor countries. We also call for powersharing in Afghanistan based on the demands of the people and the participation of all tribes and ethnic groups in accordance with the size of their communities.

Mr. Besharati added: We hope that Afghanistan's mojahedin groups may put all their efforts into ending the civil war and also endeavor to bring about peace, tranquility, and the elimination of their country's problems.

Vahaji, Ukraine's Gasanov Discuss Trade Ties

LD2604182792 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in English 1315 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] Ukrainian Prime Minister Mr Gasan Gasanov [as received], today met Iran's commerce minister, Mr Vahaji. At the session the two sides expressed their interest in broadening bilateral ties and cooperation in various fields. At the end of the meeting, the Iranian minister said Tehran was ready to establish a trade office in Iran to oversee the trend of the expansion if Irano-Ukrainian commercial ties.

Official Expresses Readiness To Promote EC Ties

LD2904085192 Tehran IRNA in English 0735 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] Madrid, April 29, IRNA—Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-America Mahmud Va'ezi Tuesday [28 April] voiced Iran's readiness to promote ties with the European Community (EC) in the framework of an agreement based on mutual respect.

Va'ezi who arrived here Monday on a three-day official visit made the remark in a meeting with Spanish Secretary of State for EC Carlos Westendorp. He also declared Iran's willingness to consolidate Tehran-Madrid ties.

Expressing concern over the developments in Bosnia-Hercegovina and pledging Iran's support for the EC efforts to restore peace in the region, Va'ezi urged EC to continue to work for resolution of the problem and prevent further bloodshed. Meanwhile, after a meeting with Spanish Secretary of State for Commerce Miguel Angel Feito Tuesday it was announced that the joint Iran-Spain Economic Commission will hold a session in a near future. Bodies expressed hope that holding the first session of the commission would further strengthen mutual ties.

Va'ezi added that Iran would work to boost her non-oil exports to Spain in order to establish a balanced trade.

In an interview with IRNA following the meeting, Feito expressed hope that the visit would have good impacts on the prospects of the mutual ties specially in economic fields.

Later in the day Va'ezi outlined features of Iran's first five- year development plan (1990-94) to members of the Confederation of Spanish Companies. He said several projects could be implemented in cooperation with the Spanish companies. He said the plan has given priority to oil, petrochemical, gas, agro-industries, basic industries, power station, railways, road-building, construction of townships and automobile manufacturing industries.

He also added that foreign companies can cooperate with Iran in projects in Qeshm Island free trade zone, in the Persian Gulf. He said the countries which provide better markets for Iranian non-oil exports will be favoured.

Ministry Official Meets Hogg, Comments on Rushdie

NC2504062592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0230 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Report by an unidentified correspondent of the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran from London on 24 April]

[Text] The British Government expressed appreciation for Iran's efforts to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh issue and bring about the implementation of a cease-fire between warring sides in this part of the world. British Foreign Office officials have announced that the CSCE's members are eager to exchange views with Iran on the complex Nagorno-Karabakh issue.

Douglas Hogg, the British Foreign Office deputy who met Hamid Asefi, the Iranian Foreign Ministry's director general for West Europe, discussed regional and international issues and the situation in the Transcaucasian region.

Asefi concluded his three-day visit to Britain by discussing the complicated Nagorno-Karabakh situation and explained Iran's mediation efforts for humanitarian aid and the dispatch of humanitarian assistance and pharmaceuticals, and the efforts to exchange bodies and POW's between the warring sides. In their talks with the Iranian Foreign Ministry delegation, the British officials stressed that Iran's role is giving shape to security in the region.

Asefi announced at the conclusion of his visit that Iran's stance on the author of the blasphemous book "Satanic

Verses" is unchangeable. He added that shortly a high-level political delegation from the British Foreign Office is to visit Iran.

Economic Ties With Italy Discussed in Washington

LD2604103792 Tehran IRNA in English 0708 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] Tehran, April 26, IRNA—Iranian Minister of Economy and Financial Affairs Mohsen Nurbakhsh and Governor of the Central Bank Mohammad Hussayn Adeli discussed Tehran-Rome economic relations with their Italian counterparts Guido Carli and Carlo Ciampi in Washington, Saturday [25 April].

The Iranian officials arrived in Washington Friday for the three-day joint session of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (WB), due to open today.

The two sides discussed Tehran-Rome industrial cooperation and Italy's assistance to develop Iranian transportation network, communications and telecommunications projects.

Meanwhile earlier in the day, Deputy Governor of the Central Bank Mas'ud Mazini and a number of other Iranian officials attended the opening session of the 59th meeting of the 'Group-24' of developing countries held at deputy ministerial level to formulate the draft of the Group-24 resolution for next year. The 56th ministerial meeting of the Group-24 will be held today.

While in Washington the Iranian delegation will also hold talks with a number of delegations from the 'Group-10' of the industrialized countries.

Czechoslovak Ambassador Discusses Cooperation

LD2404210892 Tehran IRNA in English 1413 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Tehran, April 23, IRNA—Czechoslovak Ambassador in Iran Jiri Orten today [23 Arpil] met with Iran's Minister of Commerce 'Abdol Hoseyn Vahaji to discuss commercial cooperation between the two countries.

According to Orten commercial exchanges between the two countries stood at dlrs 230 million last year, indicating a relative increase compared with the previous years.

Orten noting the importance of the fast coming free trade zone on Qeshm Island as a major export-import centre, expressed his country's readiness to help Iran build factories on the island and supply the need equipment.

He also said that Czechoslovakia is willing to buy fruit, vegetables and carpets from Iran.

Vahaji for his part stressed on the vast scopes for trade cooperation with Iran and called for balance in the two countries' trade ties.

Turkey's Apologies Sought Before Ties Improve

LD2504112392 Tehran IRNA in English 0854 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] Tehran, April 25, IRNA—The morning daily 'SALAM' Saturday [25 April] commented on the recent visit to Tehran of the Turkish Deputy Foreign Minister Uzden Sanberg and said Ankara must extend a 'practical apology' to Tehran, if it is after better ties with Iran.

The visit came after a relatively long halt in Tehran-Ankara diplomatic contacts in the aftermath of last October confiscation of the Iran-bound ship 'Cape Maleas'. An Istanbul court later ordered confiscation of the Cypriot-flagged vessel and her cargo. The ship was seized while transiting through the Bosphorous Strait.

Indications are that Sanberg's visit aimed at paving the way for the impending visit to Tehran of Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel in which he will attempt to take furthur advantage of trade ties with Iran without the slightest compromise and hold political consultations on Afghanistan developments.

By suppressing the Kurds in southeastern Turkey Ankara has always tried to portray Iran as the 'foreign supporters' of the Kurds. By doing so Turkey has two points in mind, to justify crushing of the Kurds on the grounds they have been receiving foreign support and also Turkey's greater support for the Iranian counterrevolutionary in future.

"Prestige and dignity of the Iranian nation demand that upgrading of bilateral relations, trade ties in particular, be conditioned to Turkey's practical appology from Iran."

Iranian diplomacy should not be affected by Turkey's cosmetic gestures especially that the Turks have realized that they will get by with the policy of 'slap and apology' in their relations with the Iranians, concluded SALAM.

SAIRI: Iraqi Armored Units Deploy in Marshes

LD2704202592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] The Supreme Assembly of Islamic Revolution of Iraq [SAIRI], in a report from the marshes in the southern region of Iraq on Monday, announced: Fresh forces from the 53rd Armored Division of the Iraqi Army have been dispatched to these marshes during the past two days to replace the forces deployed earlier. This troop movement is taking place in an attempt to crush the Shiite opponents of the Iraqi regime, who have sought refuge in these marshes.

According to the SAIRI news sources, two military brigades that had been deployed in this region to crush the refugees in the marshes retreated after suffering heavy losses and casualties. The SAIRI news sources also

add that the Sallin island, in the marshes near Basra, has been pounded by Iraqi heavy artillery during the past few days.

PUK Radio Cited on Peshmerga Attack

LD2604114192 Tehran IRNA in English 0913 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] Mahabad, W. Azarbaijan Province, April 26, IRNA—The Kurdish Peshmergas attacked position of the Iraqi troops in Tuz Khurmatu area, eastern Iraq, killing most of the Iraqi forces and destroying their ammunitions, announced Radio of the Patriotic Union of Iraqi Kurd Stan Sunday.

The radio, monitored here, added the assaults were in retaliation for the attacks of the Iraqi troops on 'Nojol' and 'Garmian' areas, north of Iraq, which have been under heavy shelling of the Iraqi forces for the past two weeks.

The radio also said the Kurdish opposition exploded a vehicle carrying the Iraqi troops in the Tuz Khurmatu area killing a number of its passengers and injuring several others. The car was on its way to the region for series of fresh operations, added the radio without giving the exact time of the operations.

Radio on 'Regime Plots', 'Contrived Elections'

NC2904081992 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] We have received several reports from the party committee Area One of Kordestan one of which indicates that the anti-popular clerical regime has pressured residents of the border villages of (Sarshir) and (Khaghomirava) in Marivan to leave their villages and to migrate to remote areas. The regime's pretext for doing this is that the villages are too far to receive necessary provisions. As you know, this is not the first time that the regime has forced people to leave their villages, having previously used such plots unsuccessfully.

In a meeting with the Voice of Iranian Kordestan, the party committee of Area One calls on the people of (Sarshir) and (Khaghomirava) to once again foil the regime's plot.

Another report from party committee in Area One indicates that the people in Kermanshah did not participate in the contrived elections for the fourth Majlis term to the extent the regime expected and that they, as was the case in other Kord cities, demonstrated an attitude of indifference towards the elections. This stance enraged the regime's mercenaries so much so that revolutionary guards went to people's homes demanding that they cast their votes. The people, however, were not ready to participate in the so-called elections. The regime then told the people that anyone who did not have a stamp on his identity card proving they had voted would be deprived of food coupons and of the right to travel to other parts of Iran and abroad.

What the Kord and Iranian people showed the regime in the contrived elections, something that even the clergymen have realized, is that the Iranian people are generally disgusted with the regime.

Paper Calls For Action Against Embassy Attackers

NC2504124492 Tehran ABRAR (International Supplement) in English 16 Apr 92 p 16

[Unattributed commentary: "Iranian People Expecting Foreign Ministry Explanation on MKO Attacks"]

[Text] A week after the assault by the Mojahed-e Khalq Organization (MKO) hoodlums on Iranian embassies in European and American countries [involving the] beating of Iranian diplomats and destruction of property, there are no signs of extradition or trial of offenders in the said countries. In fact, there are reports that in some of these countries including Britain and Germany, the Monafeqin [derogatory term for MKO] criminals have been released through the support of officials and continue their suspicious activities against the Islamic Republic.

The Foreign Ministry which is responsible for the affair has so far only summoned the ambassadors of these countries and verbally condemned the incidents. But as yet no detailed reports of any actions have been submitted to the nation. All reports indicate connivance and open collaboration of political and police officials of European countries with the MKO who assaulted the Iranian embassies.

In one case, British policemen were present in full gear and just watched the vandalism committed by the MKO, then arrested a few of them and released them a few hours later. Such actions have occurred in other European countries too, where diplomats have not fulfilled their duties and obligations under international regulations and refused to extradite the criminals, promising only to compensate for the damages; and it is not certain whether they will even do that.

If such things would have happened to European embassies in Iran, the West would not have been merely content with diplomatic apologies. An example is the much ado raised by America about the two Libyans allegedly involved in blowing up a Pan Am plane.

The Iranian people expect the Foreign Ministry officials not to forget the attack on Iranian embassies and diplomats, and deal severely with the matter and fulfill the legitimate rights of the Iranian nation.

Red Cross Registers 2 Iranian Pilots as POW's

LD2604183692 Tehran IRNA in English 1631 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] United Nations, New York, April 24, IRNA—The representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) last week visited and registered two Iranian pilots as prisoners of war.

The two were taken captive when their plane crashed after bombing bases of the outlawed Mojahedin-e Khalq organization (MKO) inside Iraq earler this month.

The two are identified as Colonel Amini and Arsalan Sharifi whose plane crashed inside Iraq on April 5.

In its latest report, the ICRC mentions that the captives have been provided with special forms for correspondence.

The committee also said that Iran and Iraq agreed in Geneva on April 16, to resume extradition of the rest of POWs on May 1.

Al-Qadhdhafi Sends Congratulations on Elections

LD2504160592 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] The Libyan leader, Mr. al-Qadhdhafi, in a message to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, conveyed his felicitations on the impressive elections for the fourth term of Majles.

In the message, the Libyan leader termed the remarkable presence of the people at the Majles ballots as a sign of the awareness of the Muslim Iranian people.

Amphibious Maneuvers Completed in Persian Gulf

LD2604194192 Tehran IRNA in English 1423 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] Bandar Abbas, Hormuzgan Prov., April 26, IRNA—Naval units backed by fighter bombers attacked installations and naval units of a hypothetical enemy on the second day of large-scale maneuvers in the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman today.

The amphibious operations and deployment of marines at enemy shores were successfully carried out on the second day of the maneuvers code-named "Victory-3".

Operations for blocking the sea routes, and mining the waters by the naval units of the Army and the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) continued in the war games which are to last 11 days.

Nepal & Bhutan

Premier Uninjured as Communists Stone Motorcade

BK2704050292 Hong Kong AFP in English 0454 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] KATHMANDU, April 27 (AFP)—Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala escaped unharmed as communist activists stoned his car, smashing a window, but others in his motorcade were injured, Home Ministry officials said.

Ten activists were arrested after the incident which occurred during the premier's provincial tour of the south west, they said Sunday.

The demonstrators, waving black flags and screaming abuse, halted the premier's car for more than 15 minutes.

Eventually Koirala's chauffeur accelerated away through the crowd under a hail of stones.

"Three other cars following the prime minister's were badly damaged and some occupants received head injuries," police sources said.

Koirala later addressed a mass rally attended by more than 20,000 people, mostly Nepal Congress activists, youths and students, and attacked the communists for their "vandalism and anarchism."

He said "the government would not spare...those acting against the constitution and perpetrating violence and arson in the country."

He said communists were taking advantage of the government's commitment to democracy and free speech as a sign of weakness.

But they were "violating law and order in the name of protest," he added.

Koirala pledged to take strong measures to prevent anarchic activities.

"Those showing black flags indicate they don't want to see democracy attained after 30 years of ceaseless struggle." They were seeking a revival of communism at a time when the entire world had turned its back on this political creed.

Koirala has been using the trip to mobilise support for his Nepali Congress Party in upcoming elections and for government plans to liberalise the economy.

Earlier this month seven people were killed when police fired on anti-government demonstrators. Communist groups have been calling for a general strike to protest rising prices.

Japanese Envoy Unhurt by Attack on Car

BK2604170092 Hong Kong AFP in English 1514 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] Kathmandu, April 26 (AFP)—Leftist extremists have attacked the unmarked car in which Japanese Ambassador to Nepal Chuichi Ito was riding, but he was unhurt, Home Minister Sher Bahadur Deupa said Sunday.

Deupa said about 50 people had been arrested as a result of the attack, which occurred Friday in a remote area of the country and caused damage to the windows of the vehicle.

"The Japanese ambassador was travelling in a Nepalese official car without a Japanese national flag and the

miscreants could not differentiate him and other officials following the prime minister's entourage," Deupa said in a telephone interview from Birndra Nagar, in southwestern Nepal.

"The Japanese ambassador did not receive any injury."

The Japanese envoy was travelling to ceremonies at which Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala marked the inauguration of a medium- wave transmission centre for Radio Nepal largely financed with Japanese aid.

Government Bars Schoolteachers From Politics

BK2704125392 Hong Kong AFP in English 0824 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Kathmandu, April 27 (AFP)—The Nepalese Government has banned the country's 37,000 school teachers from any kind of political activities, an official of the Ministry of Education and Culture said Monday.

The official said they were prohibited from joining any political party or campaigning for it, adding that the ban applied to teachers at both primary and secondary level.

The official said the prohibition had been decreed in the interest of students and "the expectations of the people" for a "pure" academic environment.

Political observers here said the centrist Nepali Congress government had implemented the prohibition ahead of local council elections in a month's time. They noted that most younger teachers were leftist-oriented and in the May 1991 general election had tended to support the communist parties.

Education Minister Govinda Raj Joshi told AFP that the government had introduced the measure at the request of parents of pupils.

"We are going to enforce the prohibition order strictly and seriously. We will be taking the sternest disciplinary action against those teachers who try to defy the regulations," Joshi said.

"Our viewpoint is the teachers should either work for politics, joining any of the political parties of their choice, or strictly pursue their...profession without involvement in any kind of politics".

Joshi accused teachers, particularly in the villages, of misusing government facilities and spreading party propaganda with the help of their pupils.

He denied that the government was restricting teachers' rights, adding that on the contrary it was protecting the rights of the children and parents to a good education.

There was no immediate reaction from the Nepal School Teachers Association (NSTA).

Pakistan

Khan Recognizes Afghan Mojahedin Interim Council

BK2804150892 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] Pakistan has recognized the interim mojahedin council which took control in Kabul today and the president and prime minister have congratulated professor Sebghatollah Mojaddedi. The president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, in his message said this historic occasion will mark a most auspicious beginning of a new era of peace and progress in Afghanistan. He said this is a day when all Muslim, especially our brave Afghan brethren, must bow their heads in gratitude to Allah almighty for his infinite grace in the restoration of independent Islamic identity of Afghanistan. He said the mojahedin interim council under the wise guidance of Professor Sebghatollah Mojaddedi now has the challenging task of consolidating peace in the country and implementing the accord mutually agreed upon among the mojahedin leadership.

In his message of greetings to Professor Mojaddedi, the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, extended Pakistan's full political and diplomatic recognition and support to the interim council set up in Pakistan. The prime minister said we are ready to provide all possible help to the council and share our resources in the daunting task of national rehabilitation and reconstruction of Afghanistan. Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said that on behalf of the people and government of Pakistan, I convey warm greetings and congratulations that by the grace of Allah almighty mojahedin's interim council under your sagacious leadership has assumed control in Kabul. This is a day for joy and peace for the people of Afghanistan which marks the beginning of a new era of peace and harmony in Afghanistan. We deeply cherish the return of peace in Kabul and restoration of the independence and Islamic identity of Afghanistan.

In a symbolic expression of greetings and solidarity with the Afghan mojahedin and the people, the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, today took a few steps into Afghanistan by crossing into the liberated country through Tower Kham. On arrival at the Pakistan-Afghan border at Tower Kham, the prime minister, who was accompanied by OIC [Orgnaization of Islamic Conference] secretary general, Dr. Hamid al-Ghabid, and special envoy of King Fahd Prince Turki al-Faysal, was warmly received at the helipad by the minister of state for zakat and usher [tithe], Qazi Gulsher Khan Afridi. Prominent tribal elders and a large number of tribesmen were also present to greet the prime minister. After the welcome ceremony, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, along with OIC secretary general and the Saudi prince, walked up to the Michni Post. On the way, a contingent of Khyber Rifles presented a guard of honor. Later, the prime minister accompanied by the distinguished guests went up to the Michni Post from where they saw the

Pakistan-Afghan border. A large number of people who had gathered on the Afghanistan side chanted Nara-i-Takbir Allah-o-Akbar [slogan of God is great] and Pakistan Zindabad [long live Pakistan] slogans to greet the prime minister. The prime minister waved back to the slogan-chanting crowd to reciprocate their sentiments. The prime minister and the disntinguished guests were explained the historic background Darra- i-Khyber [Khyber Pass] on Pakistan-Afghan border. The prime minister shook hands with the Afghan mojahedin on duty on the border. He congratulated them on their victorious jehad and freedom of Afghanistan after 14 years. He appreciated the valor, courage and steadfastness of the struggle waged by the Afghan people for the liberation of their homeland.

Later, addressing a large gathering at a reception hosted by the minister of state for zakat, Haji Gulsher Khan, the prime minister announced amidst continued applause that Mr. Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, who reached Kabul today, has assumed responsibilities entrusted to the council in terms of the agreement of April 24. He said it is a moment of greate rejoicing as it is a day of deliverance for the people of Afghanistan. Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif congratulated the people of Afghanistan and also the people of Pakistan and those living in the Frontier Province in particular for their persistent support to the Afghan cause. The prime minister appreciated the help and assistance extended by Muslim countries, and particularly Saudi Arabia, to mitigate the sufferings of the Afghan people. It would not have been possible for Pakistan alone to shoulder the responsibilities that it was faced with following the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. The moral, material, and political support extended to Afghan mojahedin and to the Afghan refugees by Saudi Arabia contributed immeasurably to the ability of the mojahedin to continue with their struggle and have indeed helped to alleviate the sufferings of the Afghan refugees. He asked Prince Turki al-Faysal to convey to King Fahd Bin-'Abd al-'Aziz warm sentiments of the Afghan and Pakistani people.

Reciprocating the sentiments expressed by the prime minister, Prince Turki al-Faysal declared amidst applause that he considers himself as much representative of Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif as he is of Khadim-i-Harmain Sharifain [custodian of holy places in Mecca]. He paid tributes to the Pakistani people and the government and particularly to Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif for his unreserved commitment to the cause of Afghan mojahedin. The role played by Pakistan in resolving the Afghanistan issue is admirable.

Sharif Announces Program for Reconstruction

BK2904105992 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0600 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] After the establishment of the mojahedin's interim council in Afghanistan, Pakistan has formulated a comprehensive program to extend all-out assistance for the task of reconstrution in various walks of life. An announcement to this effect was made by Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif at a news conference in Peshawar this morning.

The prime minister expressed the hope that the situation in the neighboring Islamic nation will soon be normalized. He said as soon as normalcy returns in Afghanistan, Pakistani delegations will set out to that country in order to find out its needs and identify the areas where Pakistan can cooperate in the reconstruction work. The prime minister said, at present, the major problem posed in Afghanistan is the shortage of food, and Pakistan has made all arrangements to fulfill this basic need.

On the presence of Afghan refugees in Pakistani territory, the prime minister said these refugees, who are staying near the border areas, will be sent back to their country under a phased program. In reply to a question, Mohammad Nawaz Sharif expressed satisfaction that the charges of the critics of his government have been proved biased after the success of its policy on Afghanistan.

Earlier, in his opening remarks, the prime minister expressed happiness that the jehad of the Afghans has culminated in success. He said exceptional sacrifices were made for this and Pakistan was not behind anyone in playing its role in this connection.

Khan Meets ICO Chief, Comments on Afghanistan

BK2704144492 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] The president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, has expressed the hope that the transfer of power to mojahedin in Kabul will usher in an era of peace and harmony, enabling the Afghans to devote their collective energies to the task of rehabilitation and reconstruction that lies ahead. The president was talking to Dr. Hamid al-Gabid, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] in Islamabad today. Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan also spoke of the magnitude of work needed to reconstruct the war-devastated Afghanistan and rehabilitate its economy. He hoped that all countries of the world, and particularly the Islamic ummah [community], will extend generous assistance to the Afghans for this purpose.

The ICO secretary general paid rich tributes to Pakistan for its role in the resolution of Afghanistan problem and its efforts for peace and harmony in the difficult situation. He also expressed the Islamic world's full solidarity with Afghanistan.

The Kashmir problem also came up for discussion during the meeting and ICO secretary general reiterated his organization's full support to the cause of the Kashmiri people.

Restrictions on Supplies to Afghanistan Lifted

BK2704144092 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, has directed to lift all restrictions allowing free flow of food, fuel, construction material, and agricultural inputs to Afgahnistan from Pakistan.

A Foreign Office spokesman told newsmen in Islamabad today that Professor Mojaddedi and other members of the Afghan mojahedin council are to reach Kabul shortly to assume power in accordance with the plan agreed upon among the Afghan mojahedin tanzimat [organizations] on 24 April. He said as soon as the council assumes power, the Government of Pakistan will start dealing with it as the legitimate authority. The Afghan assembly in Islamabad would represent the Afghan mojahedin council.

Afghan Military Attache Disappears From Mission

BK2904003292 Hong Kong AFP in English 1716 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] Islamabad, April 28 (AFP)—The military attache at the Afghan Embassy here disappeared Tuesday [28 April], Charge d'Affaires Qudratullah Ahmedi told AFP.

Reliable sources said that Colonel Amir Mohammad Garan was arrested by the Pakistani authorities, but the report could not be immediately confirmed.

Garan "vanished this morning at 8:30," Ahmedi said, adding that he had informed the Pakistan Foreign Office, the United Nations office on Afghanistan and "other relevant organizations."

Asked whether Garan may have been arrested, Ahmedi said, "I cannot say categorically because I wasn't there-...But it shows that we Afghan diplomats cannot move a step forward without the surveillance of the security agencies."

The incident occurred the same day the interim Mojahedin council took over in Kabul.

Asked about the status of the Afghan Embassy here vis a vis the interim government, Ahmedi said, "We have not received new orders, we are just waiting for that."

Garan's household here included his mother, wife and five children, Ahmedi said.

Official Lauds Saudi Assistance to Afghanistan

LD2704190592 Riyadh SPA in English 1936 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] Isalmabad, April 21, SPA—Pakistan Foreign Ministry spokesman here Tuesday appreciated and lauded the help the government of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd has been extending in resolving peacefully the 13 year old conflict in Afghanistan.

The spokesman, at his regular briefing on Afghanistan, was asked by the correspondent of a local newspaper to comment on the active role being played currently by the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia, Mr. Yusef Motabbakani in creating brotherly understanding and unity in the ranks of Afghan Mujahideen.

The spokesman said "as a distinguished representative of a brotherly and dear country, all efforts of Ambassador Motabbakani in carrying forward the ongoing peace process, under United Nations auspices, are most welcome."

The spokesman pointed out that Saudi Arabia all along helped Afghan people in a big way and currently its support to Pakistan's Afghan policy aimed at hammering out a peaceful settlement in that war-battered country is an encouraging factor.

Saudi Prince Conveys Fahd Praise to Islamabad

BK2704162292 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Saudi Prince Turki al-Faysal, who has been sent to Pakistan by King Fahd, the custodian of two holy shrines, as his special emissary, called on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in Islamabad today and conveyed King Fahd's congratulatioins to him on the resolution of Afgahnistan problem. He also conveyed King Fahd's high praise for Pakistan's role in the resolution of this problem. During the meeting, the two leaders exchanged views on the latest situation in Afghanistan.

U.S., Ex-Soviet Republics Owe Afghan Debt

BK2604171092 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 26 Apr 92 p 6

[Editorial: "Let's Realise the Promise of This Settlement"]

[Text] Although the agreements chiseled out in Peshawar on Friday night, welcome as they are, remained clouded by uncertainties, the silver lining is also there to see. The first major gain, and not a small one, is that the formula worked out provides something to talk and not fight about for which Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif deserves credit. Hekmatyar does continue to make dissonant noises, but that's what has made him what he is and could also unmake him if he persists in refusing to see the signs of the times. The Peshawar talks and their outcome, even if still far from concise and concrete, should make all concerned to realise that there is merit in moderation and danger in obduracy. Saner Afghans would not fail to see that their country and people have already suffered a great deal. With the Soviet intruder beaten back and doors to a better future opening, it is time to seek the path of peace. Only peace and a grand national conciliation would restore Afghanistan to real freedom. Commotion or turmoil must be avoided for the simple reason that it would do no good to anyone.

While the Afghans trudge back to some sanity and signs of stability, it is the moral duty of the world community to assist them in this prodigious task. After all, the basic fact about Afghanistan's tragedy is that it was a helpless victim of the trussle between two giants who were holding the world to ransom. Afghanistan was invaded by the Soviet Union, and from the other side the United States counterattacked. That's the unvarnished truth of the 13 terrible years that Afghanistan has had to endure. The United States owes a gigantic moral debt to the people of Afghanistan and so do the successors to the USSR. In the first place, they should play the role of an honest broker among the various political elements and help them carve the path of national unity out of the present jungle of incompatibles. The U.S. and the present rulers in Moscow should then work out between themselves a solid programme to finance reconstruction in Afghanistan where war-wrought devastation has been on an unspeakably vast scale. Thirteen years of total war would turn any land into a complete wilderness. And that is just about what Afghanistan today is.

As for Pakistan's part in the days ahead, there can hardly be two opinions. We must lend every possible assistance at every relevant level. Our task and responsibility towards the Afghan people would not end with their return home. We must coolly settle down to plan and work out the bases of developing the best possible good-neighbourliness between Islamabad and Kabul. Our Foreign Office might do well to return to the library and take a good look at history. The people of Afghanistan and what is Pakistan today have a fraternal equation from times immemorial. Our history is intertwined since antiquity. Anything less than intimate and sincere relationship would be totally against the grain of history, tradition and the best interests of the two peoples. Then, there is the world beyond Afghanistan which is beaconing us.

Kashmiris Stage Protest; Ghali Burned in Effigy

BK2504183892 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 25 Apr 92 p 12

[Text] Islamabad, April 24: Hundreds of JKLF [Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front] and Jamiyat-e Islami [JI] activists tried on Friday to stop the cavalcade of UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali outside the Islamabad airport but failed as police resorted to Lathi [Baton] charge.

"Go back—agent of Zionism—go back", shouted the militant Kashmiri demonstrators when they saw Ghali in an official limousine being driven away from the airport.

The demonstrators belonging to the two AJK [Azad Jammu and Kashmir] opposition groups were led by JKLF Chief Amanullah Khan and JI leader Rashid Turabi. Some of them were injured when police resorted to baton charge.

Fiery speeches were delivered by JI leader Rashid Turbabi and JKLF Chief Amanullah Khan who demanded liberation of Kashmir and implementation of the UN resolution by holding plebiscite in the Indian held territory. They also spoke of the atrocities and brutalities being perpetrated on Kashmiris by the Indian security forces.

Both the groups also raised slogans against each other, but saner elements in both the parties did not allow them to have a fight. The traffic on the airport road remained suspended for about half an hour, as even after Ghali's departure from the airport the demonstrators kept on marching on the road to ventilate their sentiments. The demostrators chanted full throated slogans in favour of the liberation of India-occupied Kashmir with a number of banners and placards in hands.

The protestors, started assembling at the main gate of the airport an hour before Ghali's arrival despite refusal by authorities. While the JI workers were raising the slogan: "Kashmir will become Pakistan", the JKLF militants raised the slogan "Kashmir will be made independent."

Some of the demonstrators were seen pelting the limousine with stones and eggs. While official mediamen were allowed to witness the arrival of UN Secretary General a dozen of foreign and local reporters had to wait outside the lounge as they were denied entry by securitymen. "This is our right to talk to Ghali, it's ridiculous. Why we are not allowed to talk to him?" said a journalist while asking a securityman to allow him to talk to Ghali.

It may be recalled that the special envoy of the UN Secretary General Benon Sevan was also criticised on Thursday when he invited but only a selected group of journalists to attend his press briefing. The journalists he invited were either from the foreign press or those who represent foreign news agencies.

Our Lahore Bureau Adds: Different organisations Friday staged rallies at Masjid-e-Shuhada Chowk to register their protest against the statement of UN Secretary General [Butrus] Ghali on Kashmir issue.

The demonstrators condemned the statement and termed it as partial. Mr Ghali had stated that the UN would not interfere in Kashmir conflict without the consent of the parties concerned. They were of the view that the UN had taken action arbitrarily against the Muslim countries like Iraq and Libya but now it was not implementing the Security Council resolutions under lame excuses.

They also comdemned the economic sanctions imposed on Libya. Criticising the Pakistan government, the demonstrators demanded that it should press Mr Ghali to withdraw his statement about Kashmir.

They chanted slogans against the UN and burnt an effigy of Butrus Ghali. Later, they marched from Masjid-e-Shuhada to Faisal Chowk and returned to Masjid-e-Shuhada where they dispersed peacefully.

Meanwhile, the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front and Kashmir Social Welfare Society observed one day token hunger strike at the Regal Chowk. They demanded that the UN should imposed economic sanctions against India for its flagrant violations of human rights in Held Kashmir. They were of the view that it was the exclusive right of the Kashmiris to shape their own future and urged the UN to impress upon Pakistan and India to withdraw their troops from the areas under their administrative control and ensure right of self-determination to the Kashmiris.

Sharif Praises Japanese Relations on Anniversary

OW2704150492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1408 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Islamabad, April 27 (KYODO)—Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Monday thanked Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa for Japan's contribution to the socio-economic development of Pakistan and for promoting peace in the Asia-Pacific region.

In a message to Miyazawa on the occasion of the 40th anniversay of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries on Tuesday, Sharif valued Tokyo's significant contribution to the socio-economic development of Pakistan and to regional peace and stability.

Miyazawa, in his message to Sharif, noted that the two countries have common views on many international issues and that Japan has been the major contributor to the economic development of Pakistan.

Japan has been Pakistan's biggest aid donor and trading partner ever since the suspension of American aid to Pakistan in October 1990.

Karachi Nuclear Plant Viable Until 2012

BK2504183492 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 25 Apr 92 p 5

[Text] Karachi (PPI)—Karachi nuclear power plant [KANUPP] can continue to operate economically up to 2012, ten years beyond its original design life, provided that the sale price of electricity produced by KANUPP is revised up to commercially competitive rates.

According to KANUPP sources the government provides some grant for impeoving the safety towards current standards and Canadian support remains available at least for the safety relevant improvements.

The replacement of all life limiting equipments is technically feasible, KANUPP meets its present mandatory safety taregets, but significant design improvement are needed in the next few years to meet internationally acceptable current safety standards.

Troops Leave To Join UN Forces in Cambodia

BK2804153492 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] An advance group of Pakistani troops left for Cambodia today where it will join the UN peacekeeping force. The main body of the Pakistan contingent will reach Cambodia in the first week of May as per the program.